

HIGE HIRO

After Being Rejected,
I Shaved
and Took in a
High School
Runaway

10

Original Story by
Shimesaba
Manga by
Imaru Adachi
Character Design by booota

ONE PEACE BOOKS

[CHAPTER 46]

BZZBZZ

BUZZZZZ

BZZBZZ

BUZZZZZ



...WHERE
IS SHE?

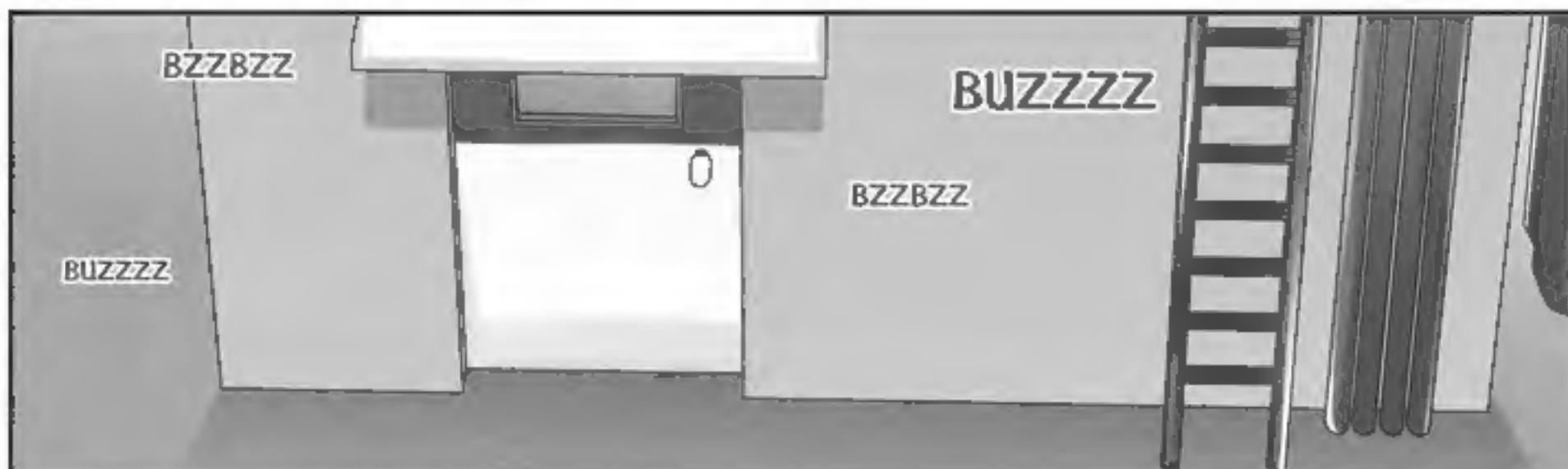


BZZBZZ

BUZZZZZ

BZZBZZ

BUZZZZZ



[CHAPTER 46]
SCHOOL AND THE DARKNESS

HIGEHIRO

After Being Rejected, I Shaved and
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ORIGINAL STORY BY
SHIMESABA

MANGA BY
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CHARACTER DESIGN BY
BOOTA

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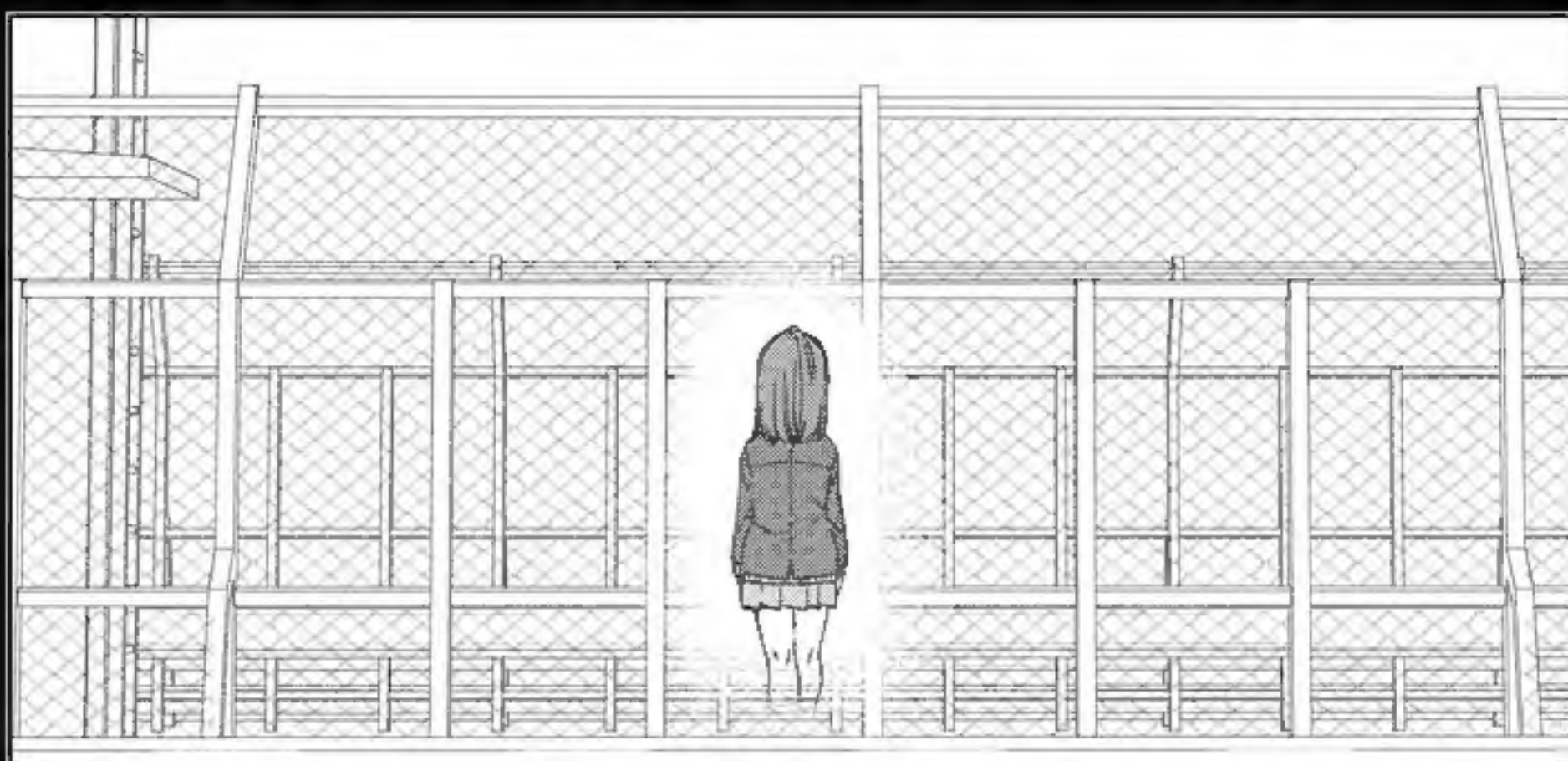
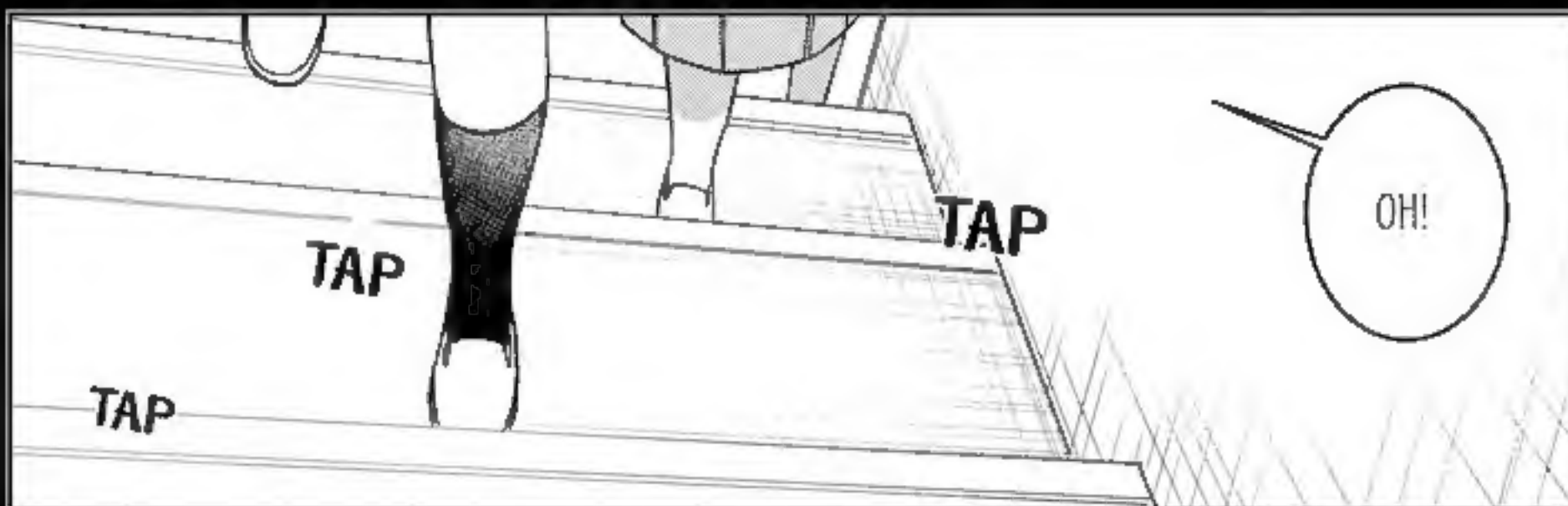
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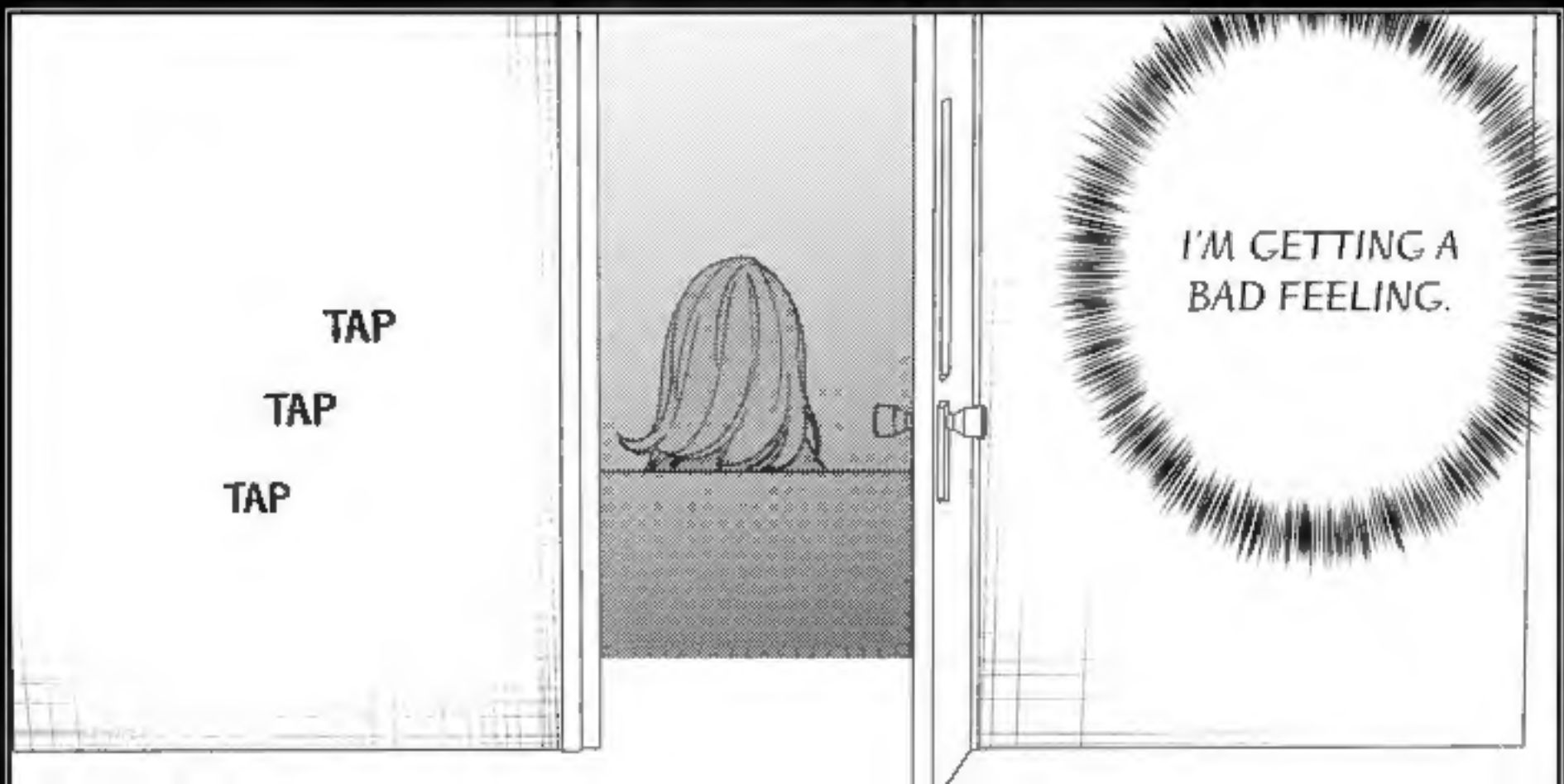
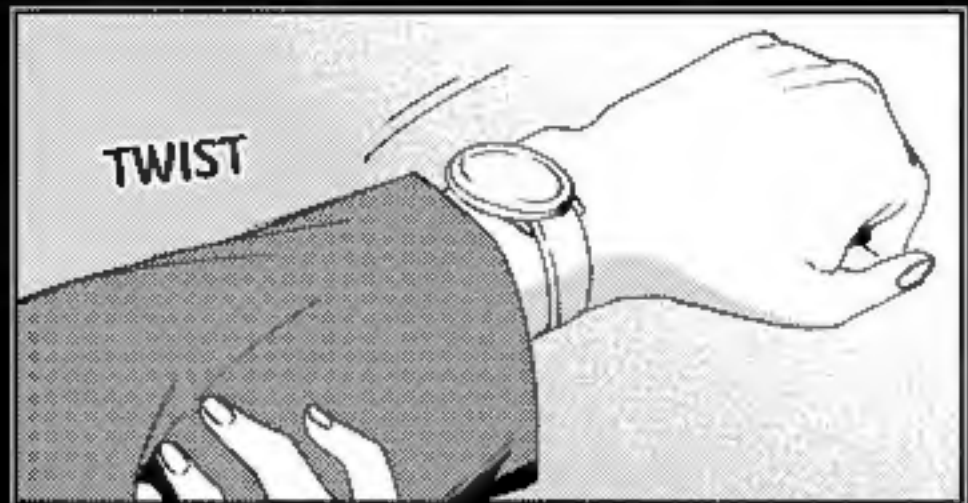
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WHAT'RE YOU
DOING?



IRK

YOU THREE
TOGETHER?
FOR OVER
TWENTY
MINUTES?

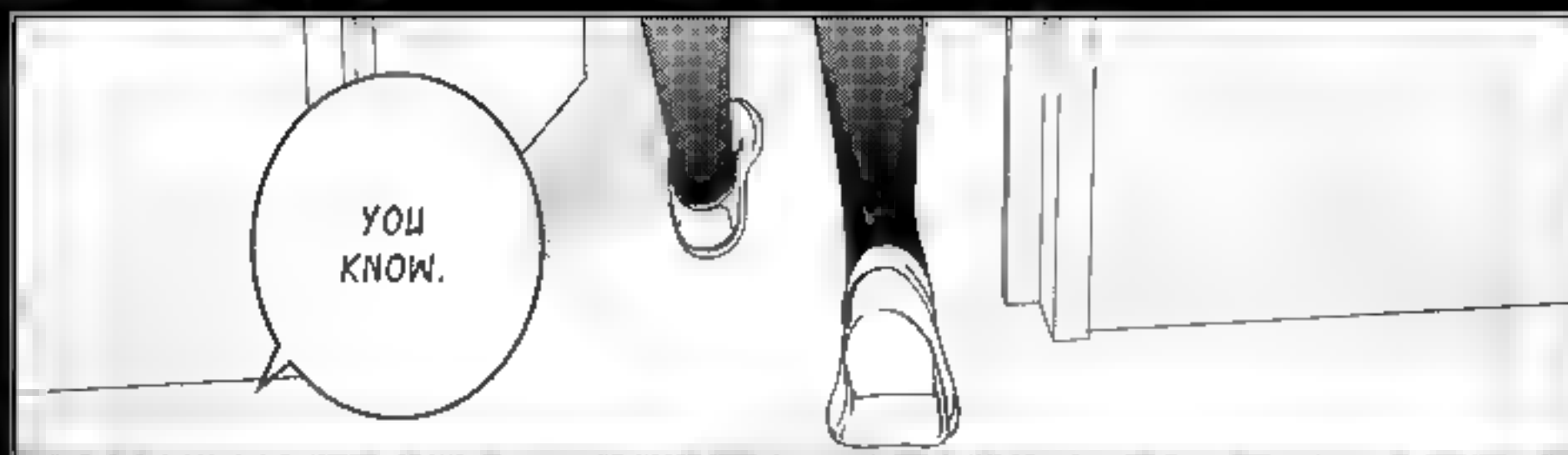
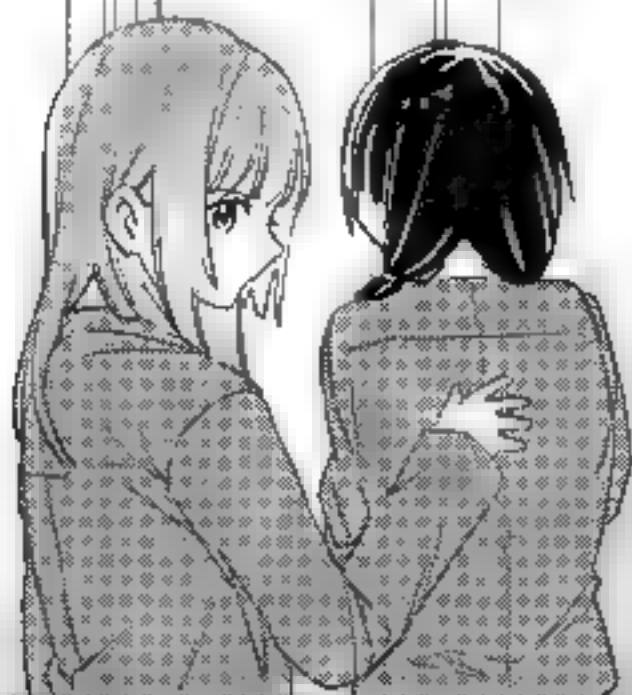
SOMETHING
WRONG
WITH THAT?



NOTHING. WE
WERE JUST
TALKING.









SHE MUST BE
SO BORING.



BUT EVEN STILL,
WHO'D EVER
GO FOR SUCH A
PATHETIC LOSER?



DO YOU THINK I'M
BEING HER FRIEND
OUT OF SOME
SORT OF FAVOR?

I'LL LET YOU
JOIN OUR GROUP
IF YOU WANT.


...



YELL!

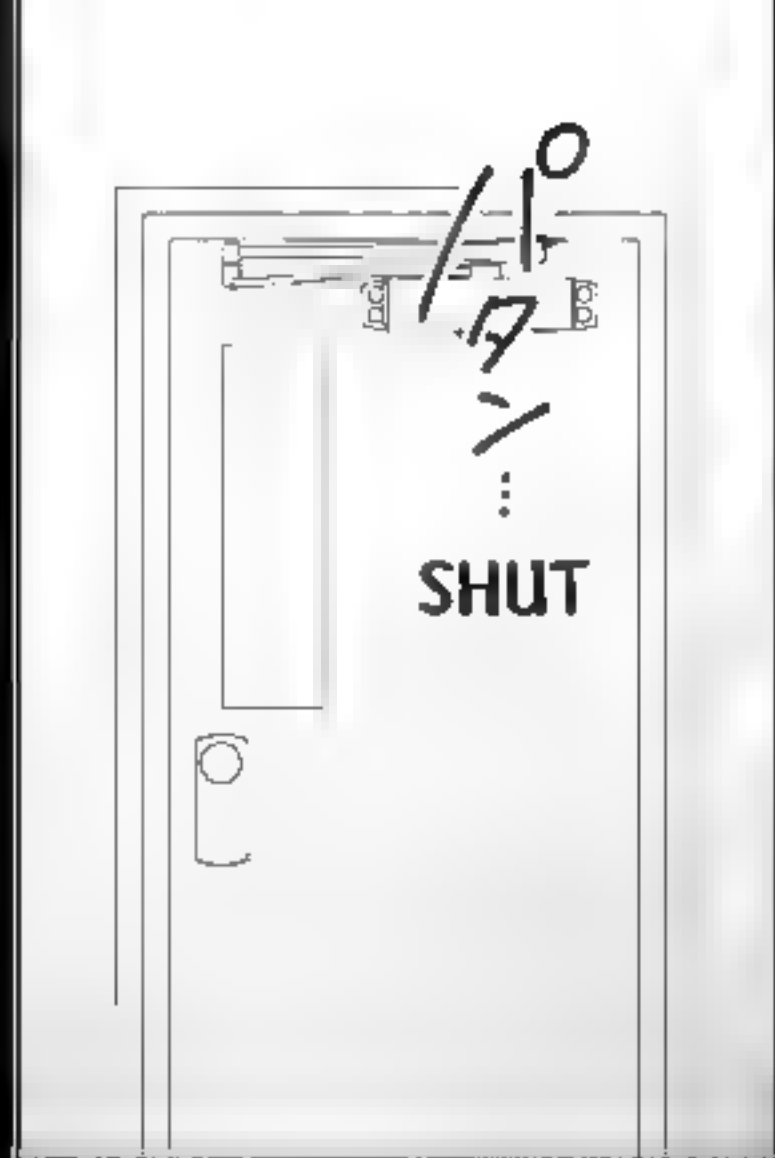
**YUKO AND I CAN
TALK ABOUT
ANYTHING.
SHE'S A REAL
FRIEND!**

**DON'T TALK
TRASH
ABOUT MY
FRIENDS!**



**I DON'T WANNA
BE FRIENDS
WITH SOMEONE
LIKE YOU!**





LET'S
GO.

SAYU UM—





IF WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO FIGHT
AGAINST YUZUKI'S
GROUP

THEN I'M
READY FOR
IT



INCH



IF SOMETHING
BAD HAPPENS
TO YOU JUST
BECAUSE YOU'RE
FRIENDS WITH
SOMEONE LIKE
ME...

I DON'T
THINK I
COULD
BEAR IT.



THAT'S ALL
WRONG.

ALL OF THIS STARTED
IN THE FIRST PLACE
BECAUSE I GOT ON
YUZUKI'S BAD SIDE.

AT SOME POINT
YUKO GOT THE
SEQUENCE OF
EVENTS MIXED UP.




YUKO ONLY CAUGHT
THEIR ATTENTION
BECAUSE SHE'S
INVOLVED WITH ME.

THAT'S THE REAL
TRUTH.

EVEN
THOUGH IT
WAS ALL MY
FAULT.






HAD RECOGNIZED
IT FOR A WHILE
BUT DESPITE HER
TIMID PERSONALITY,
YUKO ACTUALLY HAD
A REALLY STUBBORN
SIDE

SHE DIDN'T
LET OTHER
PEOPLE BEND HER
CONVICTIONS


AND WITH THOSE
CONVICTIONS POINTED
NEGATIVELY STRAIGHT
AT HERSELF, SHE WAS
FORCING HERSELF
INTO A DOWNWARD
SPIRAL

IF I JUST TOLD
HER THAT IT WAS
ACTUALLY MY FAULT
SHE'D DENY IT AND
WE'D ARGUE ROUND
AND ROUND IN
CIRCLES



I'M FINE. WE
JUST NEED TO DO
OUR BEST UNTIL
WE GRADUATE

YUKO, DON'T
SAY THINGS
LIKE THAT



YEAH... YOU'RE
RIGHT. I'LL BE
FINE AS LONG AS
I HAVE YOU

BUT THE
THERE WAS NO
RELEASE FROM
DESPERATE, DIRE
STRUGGLE

WORSE FAST

THAT
TOGETHER
WE COULD
ANYTHING

I BELIEVED
HER WHEN SHE
SAID THAT



I'M ON HALL
DUTY NOW SEE
YOU LATER.



HEY!



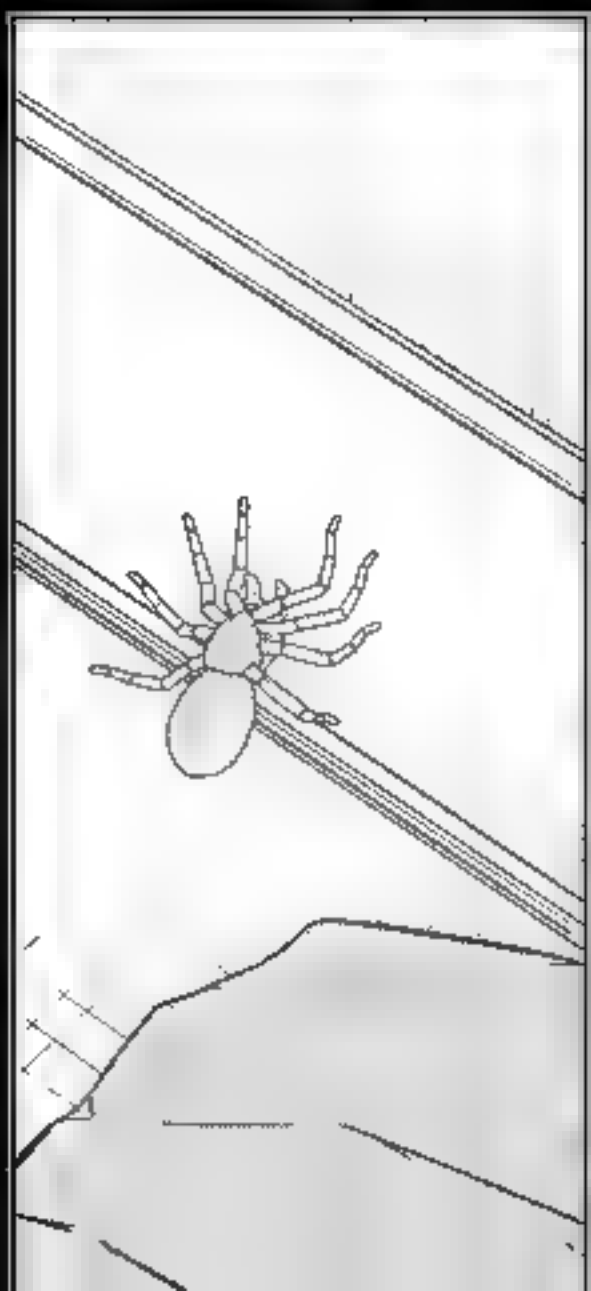
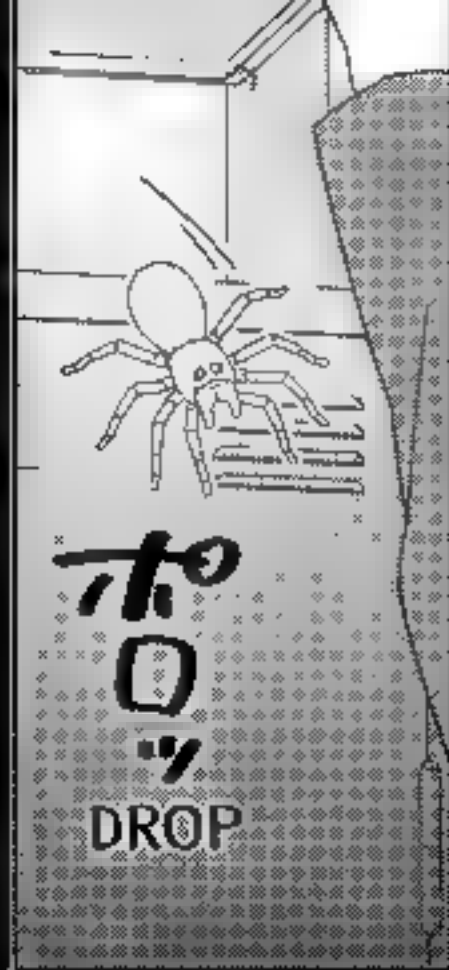
SNICKER

I JUST SAW YOUR
GYM CLOTHES IN THE
CAFETERIA GARBAGE.
DID SOMETHING
HAPPEN?

SNICKER







BUT SHE
DOESN'T HAVE
A CHANCE WITH
THAT FACE!

BLECH. SHE'S
SHOWING
GUYS HER
UNDERWEAR

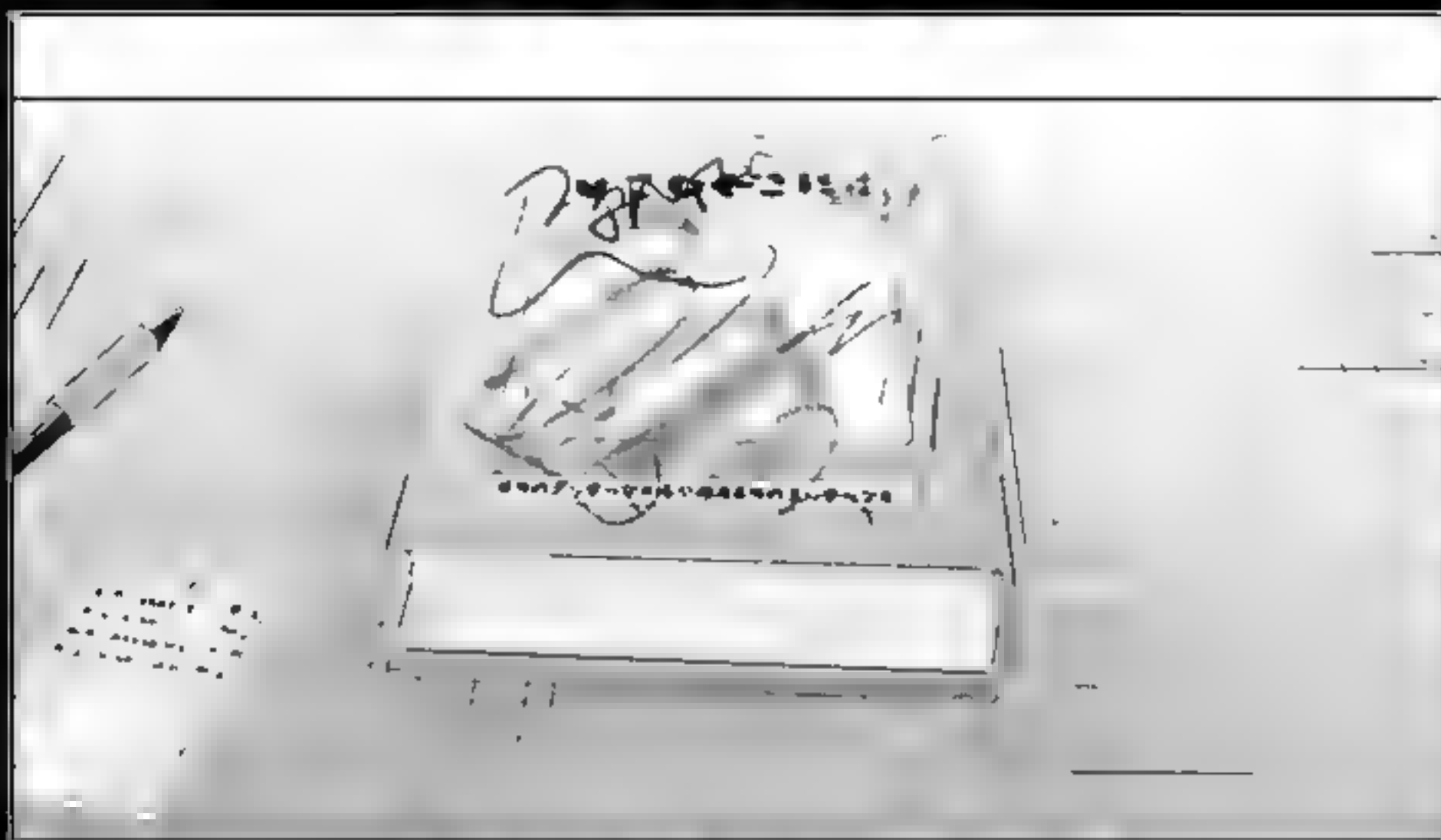
HAHAHA

HAHAHA

IT MAKES ME SO HAPPY
AS A LIBRARIAN THAT
YOU CAN READ TOUGH
BOOKS LIKE THIS,
YUKO. THE OTHER KIDS
NEVER DO

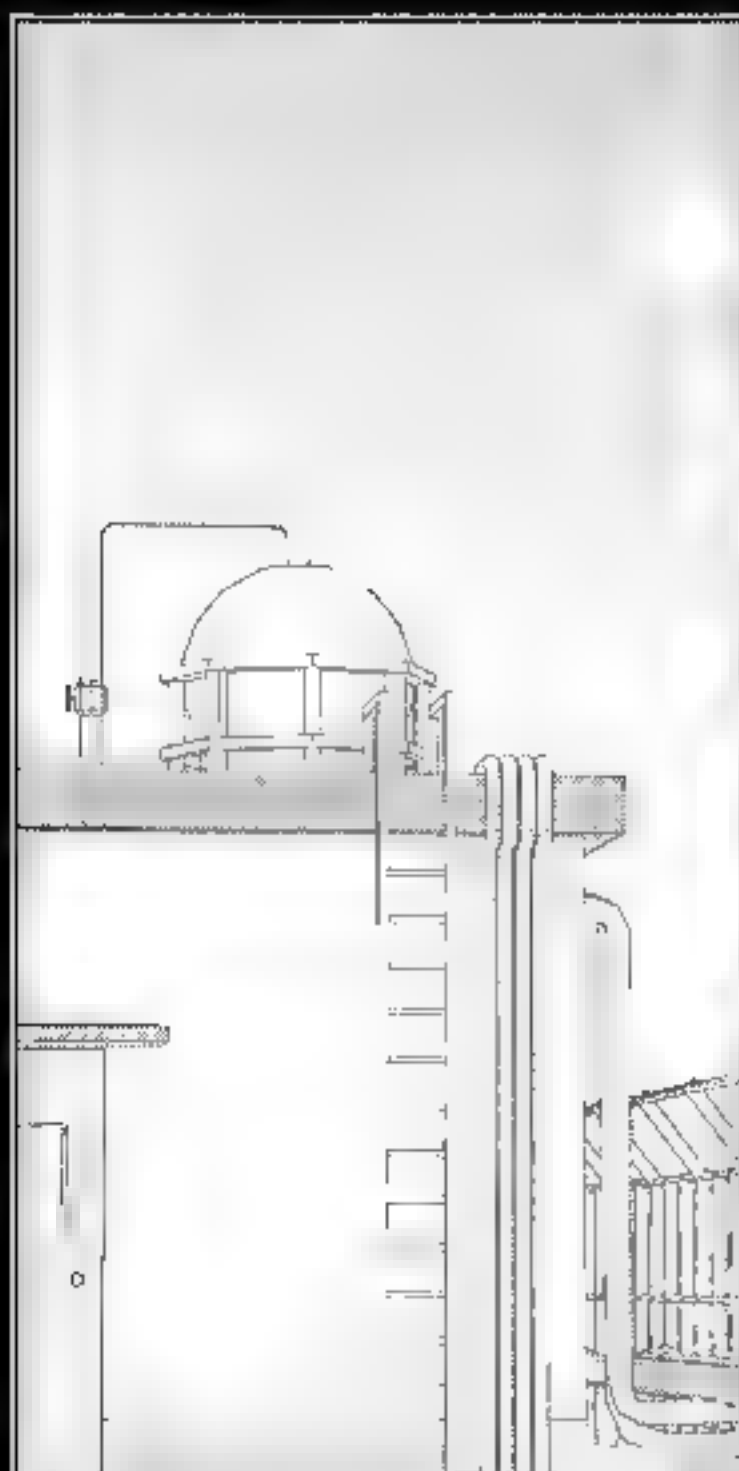
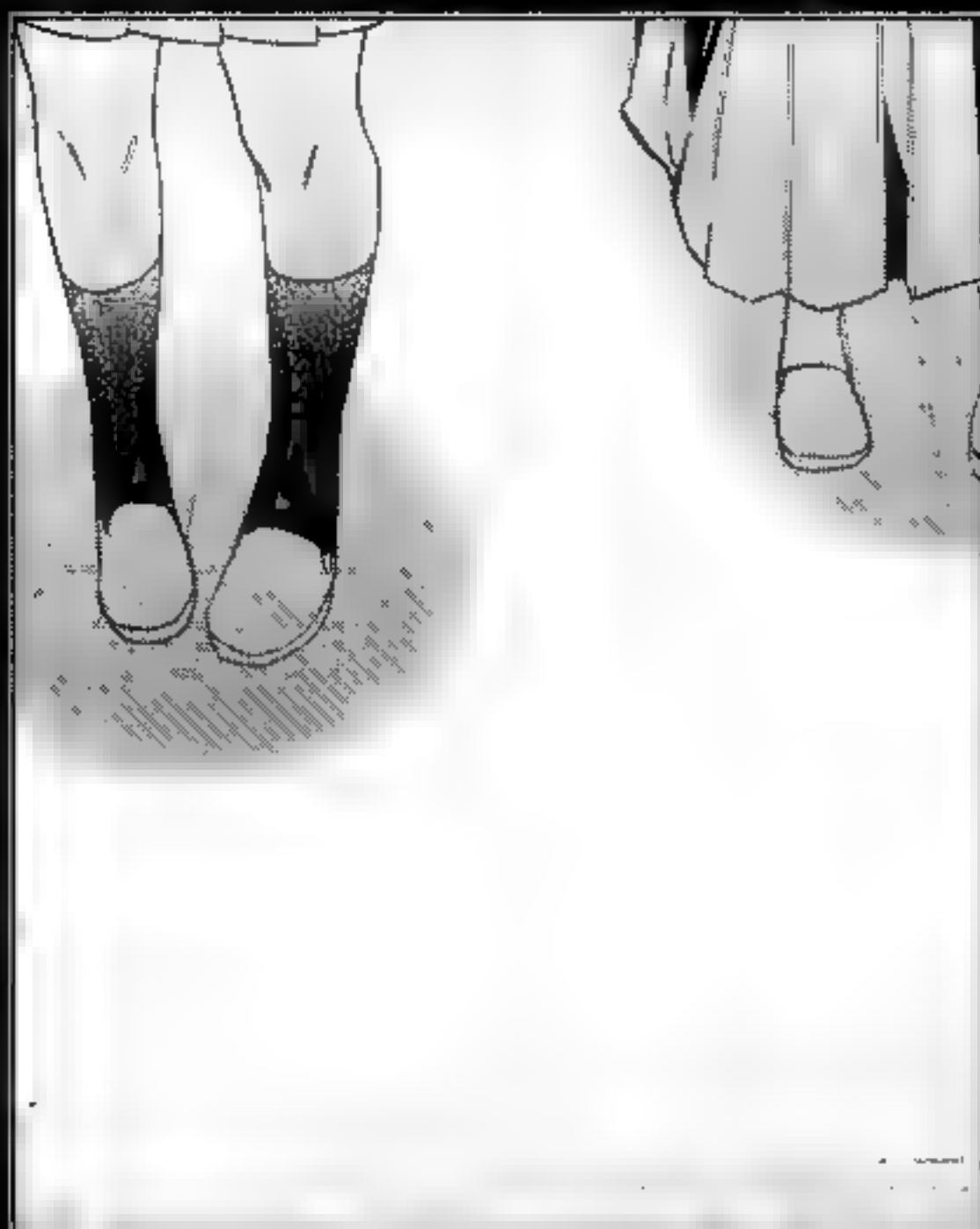
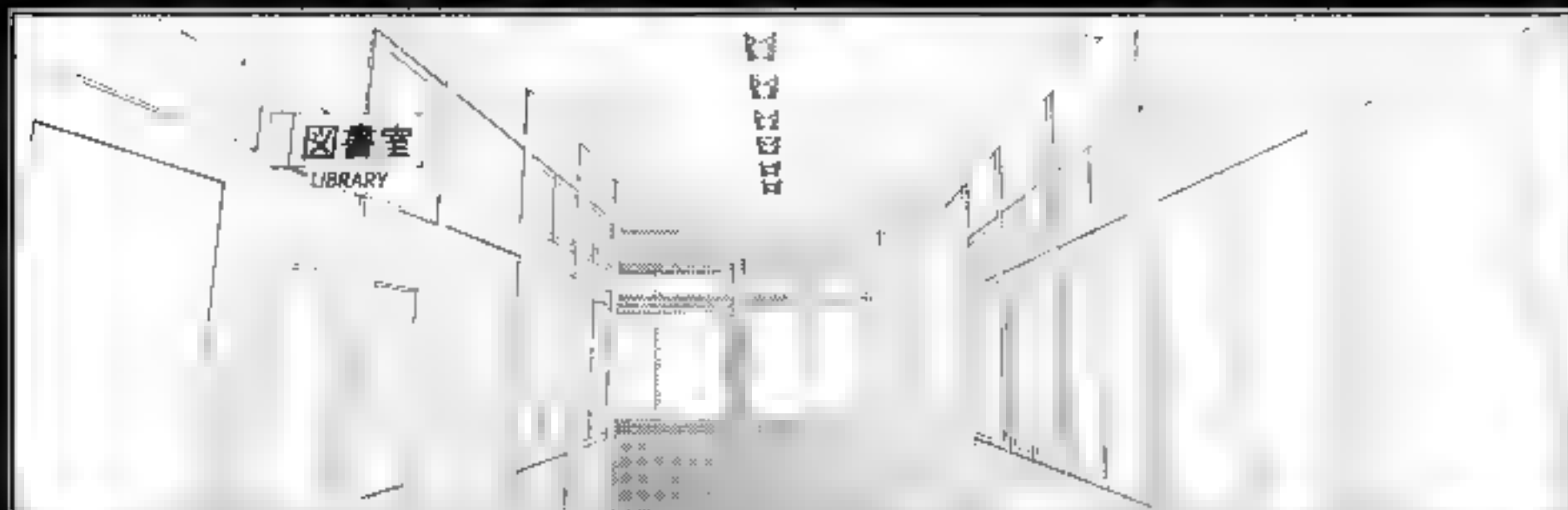
貸 出

RETURN



CRUMPLE

YES.. I'M
SORRY





THE MORE
I TRIED TO
PROTECT
YUKO

THE MORE SHE
GOT BULLIED
WHEN I WASN'T
AROUND



WE QUICKLY
HAD LESS AND
LESS TO SAY TO
EACH OTHER

WHAT USED TO BE
THE EVERYDAY
FUN OF GOING
TO SCHOOL HAD
CHANGED INTO
STRUGGLING TO GET
THROUGH EACH
PASSING DAY



INEVITABLY
THE BULLYING
DROVE HER
TO COMPLETE
EXHAUSTION

AND I GOT
RUN DOWN
MYSELF

COULDN'T LEAVE
YUKO ALL ALONE
EITHER, SO I STUCK
TO IT AND CAME
EVERY DAY

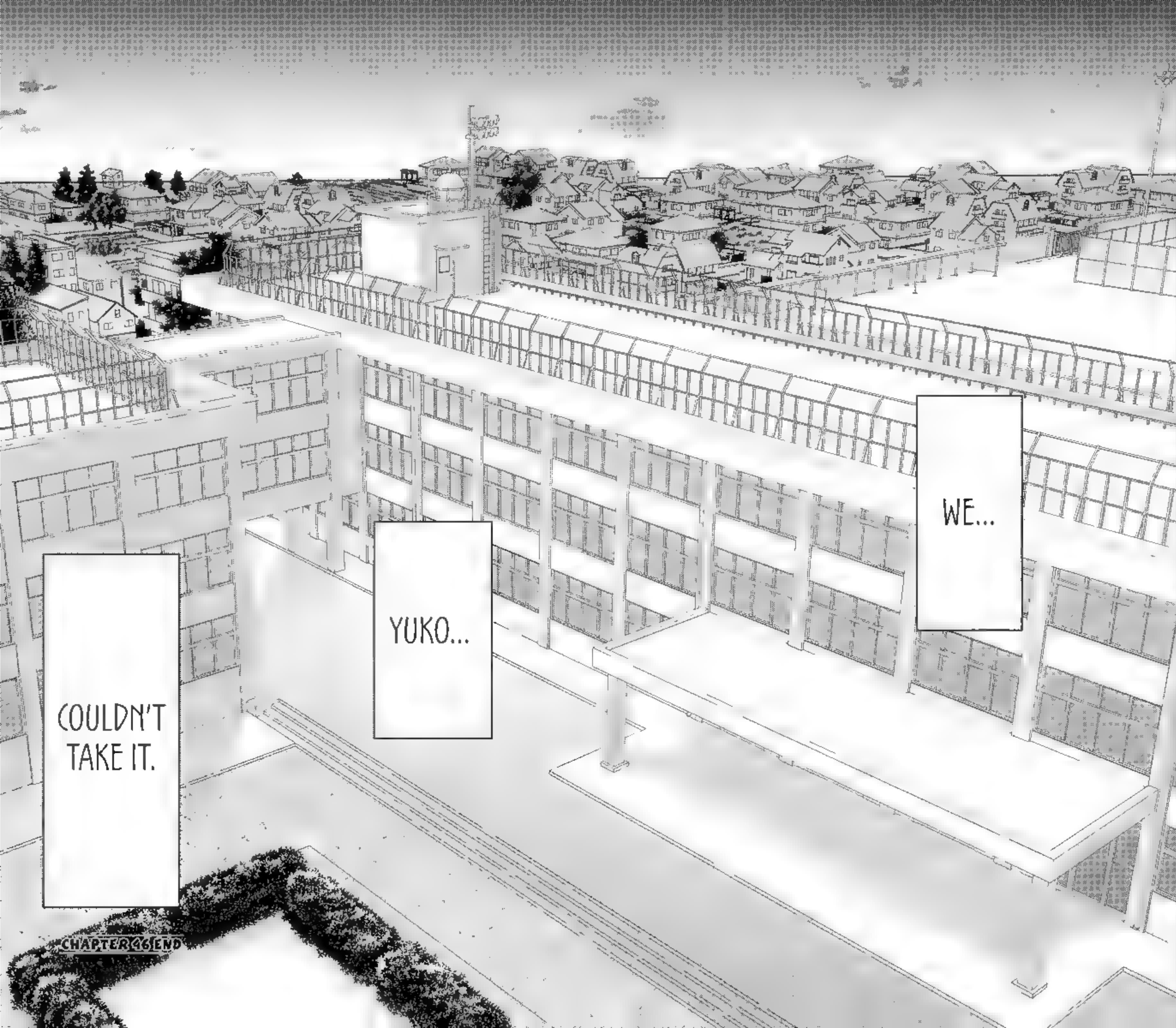
WHEN IT CAME T ME
TO LEAVE FOR SCHOOL
EVERY MORNING, I JUST
WANTED TO STAY HOME
BUT MOM WOULD NEVER
LET ME TAKE A DAY OFF

THAT TIME SPENT
IN SILENCE WAS
UNCOMFORTABLE
AND SCARY OF
COURSE IT WAS

AND THAT SCHOOL
WOULD JUST END
EVEN A SECOND
SOONER

PRAYED EVERY
SINGLE DAY THAT
YUZUKI'S GROUP
WOULD LOSE
INTEREST IN US





COULDN'T
TAKE IT.

YUKO...

WE...

BUT BEFORE
THAT DAY
WOULD COME



HIGEHIRO

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in a High School Runaway





IN BOTH BODY
AND SPIRIT

AM GLAD SHE'S TAKING
OFF BECAUSE OF
EVERYTHING THAT'S
HAPPENED SHE'S
ALMOST GOTTEN TO
THE POINT OF BEING
MISERABLE



OKAY,
HOMEROOM'S
OVER. OFF
TO CLASS
EVERYONE.

OH... YUKO
CALLED IN
SICK TODAY.

SURPRISINGLY
YUKO WASN'T
AT SCHOOL ONE
DAY





NOTHING
CHANGED



NOW IT WAS
NOTHING BUT
MISERY

EVEN THOUGH MY
SCHOOL LIFE WITH
YUKO USED TO BE
SO AMAZING



THAT'S JUST HOW
MUCH EVERYONE
HAD DRIVEN US
INTO A CORNER

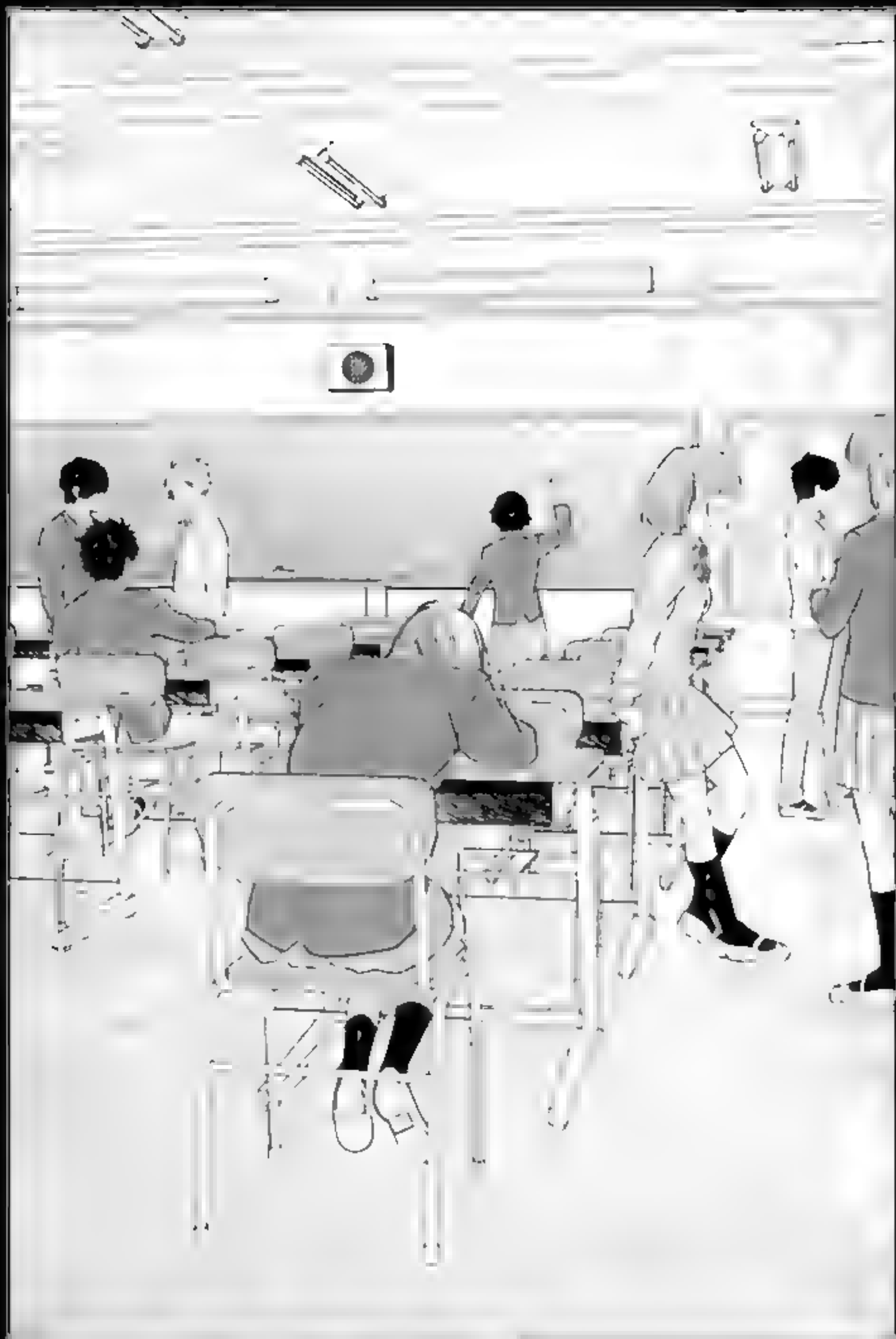


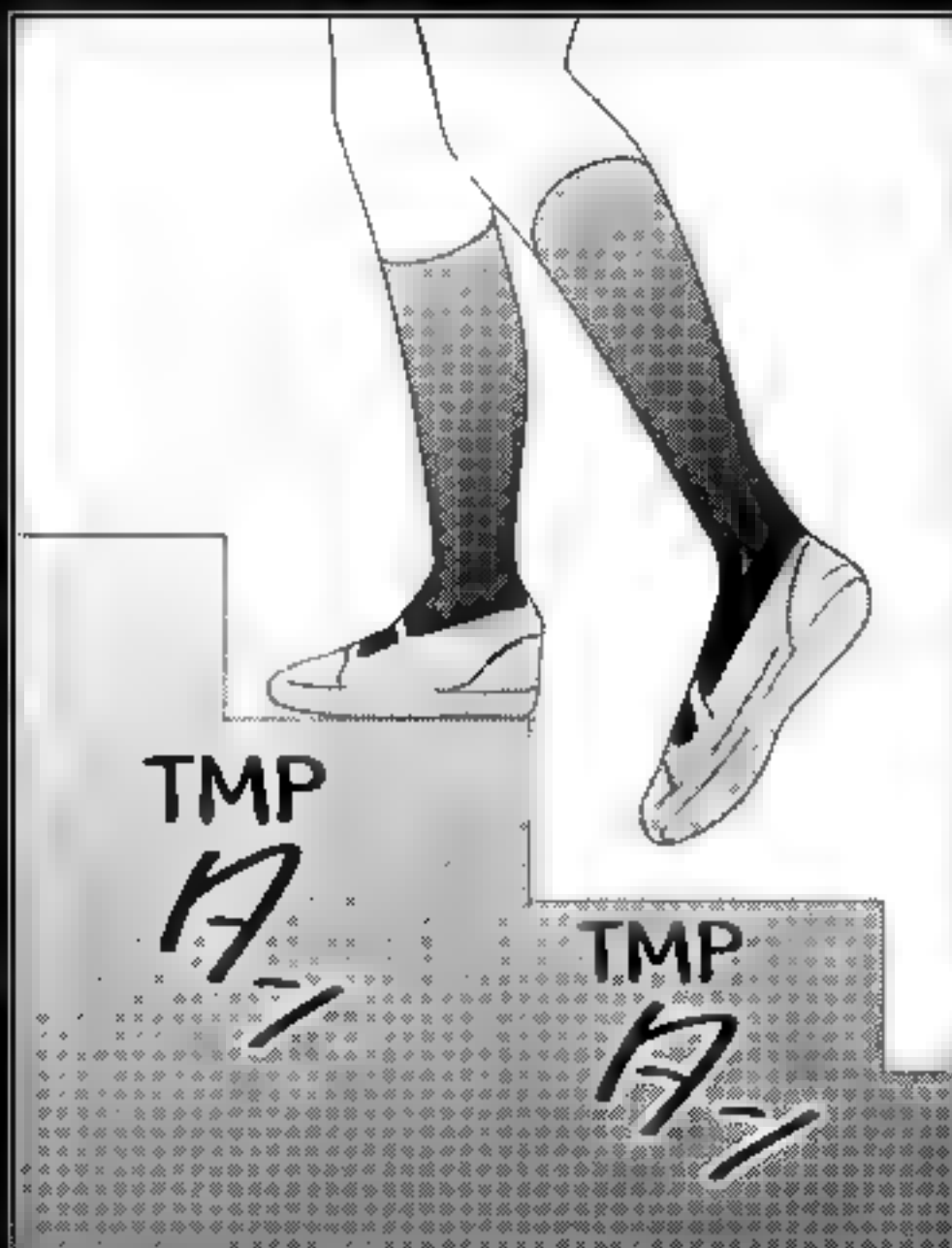
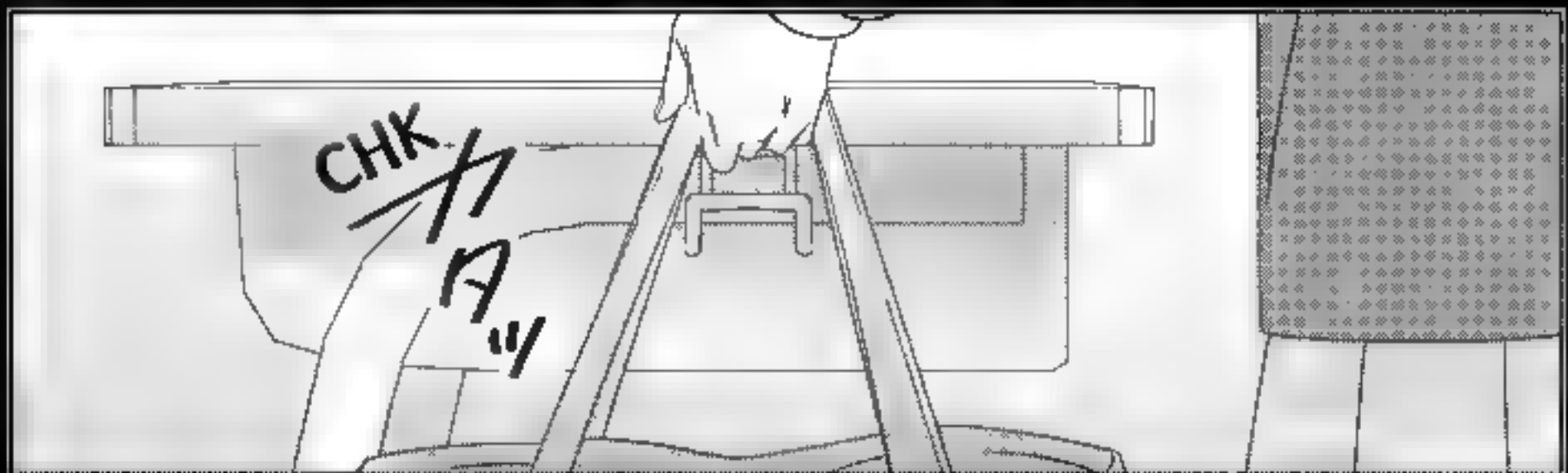
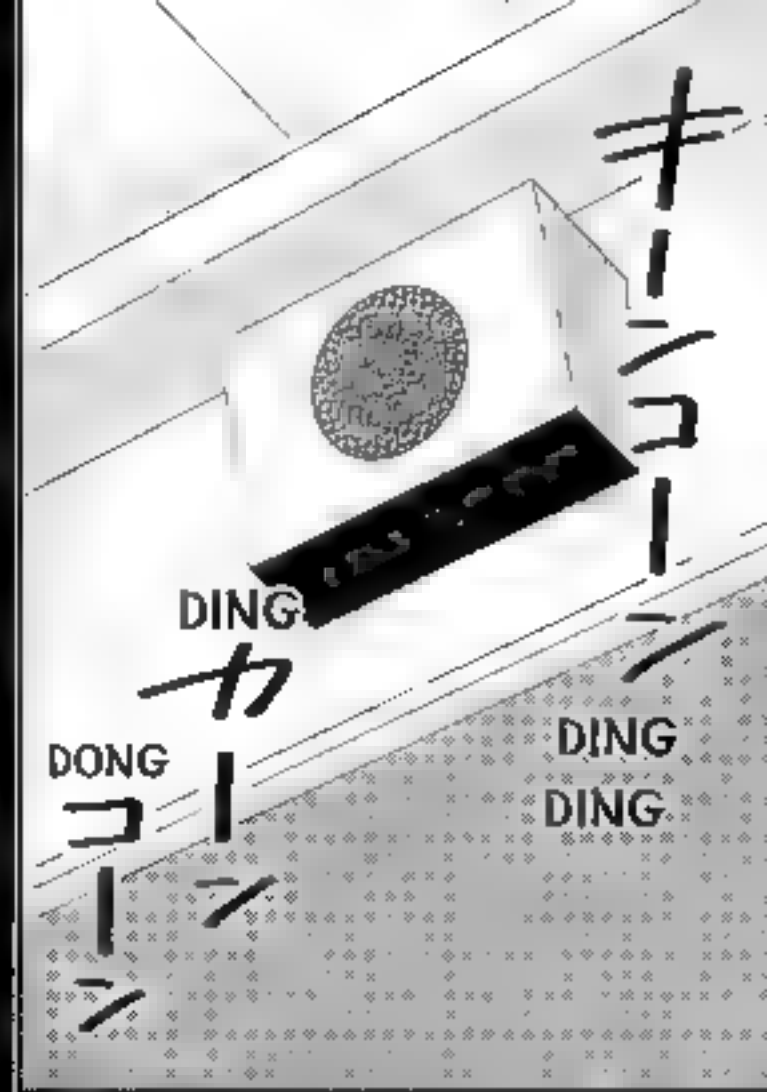
LONELINESS.
IMPATIENCE.
FEAR. ANGER.

THOSE EMOTIONS
WOVE THEIR WAY
INTO OUR LIVES. AND
ME AND MY ONLY
FRIEND SPENT DAY
AFTER DAY GETTING
WORN DOWN BY
THEM ALL.



I CAN'T... TAKE
IT ANYMORE.







I'M OKAY I'M
OKAY SO LONG
AS I HAVE YUKO



WE
PROMISED
TO FIGHT IT
TOGETHER.

I HAVE A
FRIEND
AFTER ALL. A
BEST FRIEND

I'M OKAY
I'M OKAY
I'M OKAY

SO LONG AS
I HAVE YUKO
I'M OKAY



BACK
YUKO

YUKO







SMILE

SAYU-CHAN!



I'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR
YOU. HERE.



SHAKE

SHAKE

HEY. COME
OVER HERE

THAT'S
DANGEROUS

I'VE—



PALE



AND BEFORE
LONG, BE ONE OF
THE STARS OF
THE CLASS

I FIGURED A
GIRL AS CUTE
AS YOU WOULD
MAKE TONS OF
FRIENDS



THE FIRST
TIME
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
SO PRETTY.

YOU WERE
BEAUTIFUL ALL
BY YOURSELF.
YOU NEVER
APPROACHED
ANYONE.



BUT THAT
DIDN'T END UP
HAPPENING.

SCRAPE



YUKO... WHAT
ARE YOU
TRYING TO
SAY?

THAT WAS
SO COOL...



YOU STAYED
ALONE AT
SCHOOL, SAME
AS ALWAYS



NO MATTER
WHAT THE
OTHER GIRLS
TRIED TO
SCHEME

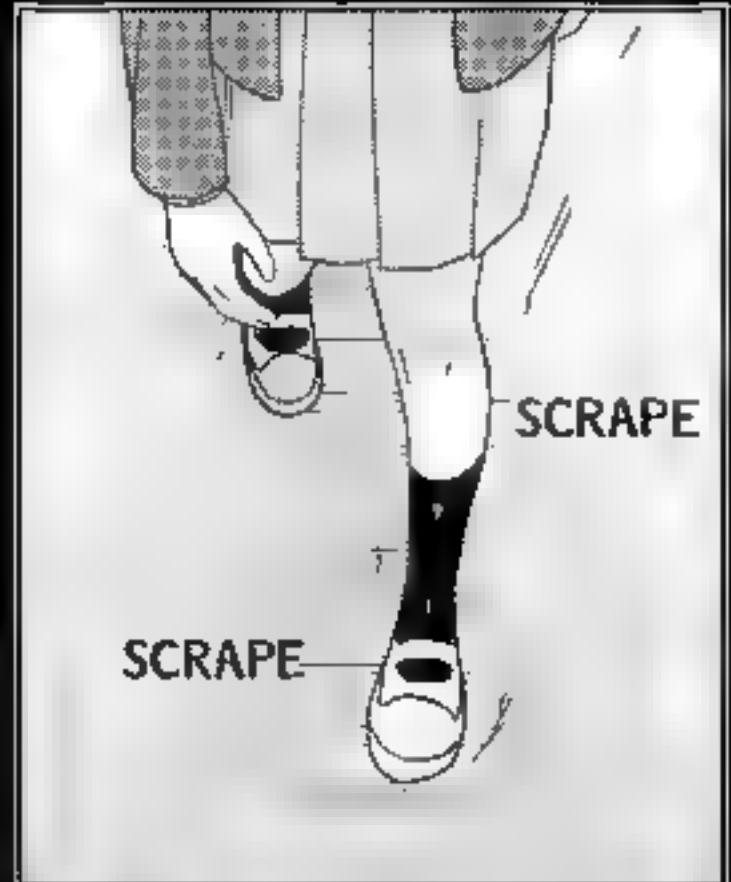


APPROACHED
YOU

...SO I



AND SOMEONE
LIKE ME MANAGED
TO BECOME YOUR
FRIEND.





WHAT?

**YOU USED
TO BE
PROUDLY
ALONE AND
SO BEAU-
TIFUL! BUT
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
FRIENDS
WITH A
WRETCH
LIKE ME**

**YOU DIDN'T
NEED TO
CHANGE!
YOU WERE
PERFECT
THE WAY
YOU WERE!**

**THEY
JUST SEE
YOU AS
THE IDIOT
WHO
HANGS
OUT
WITH THE
LOSER!**



THAT
PERFECT
SAYU—

THAT
PERFECT
SAYU—



THEY'RE
MAKING
FUN OF
HER!



IT'S FINE IF
YOU'RE THE
ONLY PERSON
TO KNOW THE
REAL ME

THAT'S NOT
TRUE PLUS,
I DON'T CARE
WHAT OTHER
PEOPLE THINK
OF ME





QUIVER

QUIVER

SAYU-CHAN...
YOU'RE
DIFFERENT
FROM ME.
YOU'RE
SPECIAL.



NO IT'S
NOT!!



YUKO...



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT SHE'S
EVEN SAYING
WHAT IS SHE
THINKING?



SO LONG
AS I HAVE
YUKO



RUINED
EVERYTHING...

THAT'S WHY I
WANTED TO BE
WITH YOU SO
MUCH. I .



HAVE YOU
NOTICED?

YOU HAVEN'T
BEEN LAUGHING
AT ALL LATELY.




THANKS



WELL, OF
COURSE. WE'RE
FRIENDS!

YOU ALWAYS
LOOKED UPSET,
TRYING SO HARD
TO FIGURE OUT
HOW TO PROTECT
ME



BUT TO
ME, THAT'S
THE MOST
PAINFUL
THING OF
ALL.





I'M SORRY,
SAYU.



ALWAYS
...KEEP
LAUGHING.

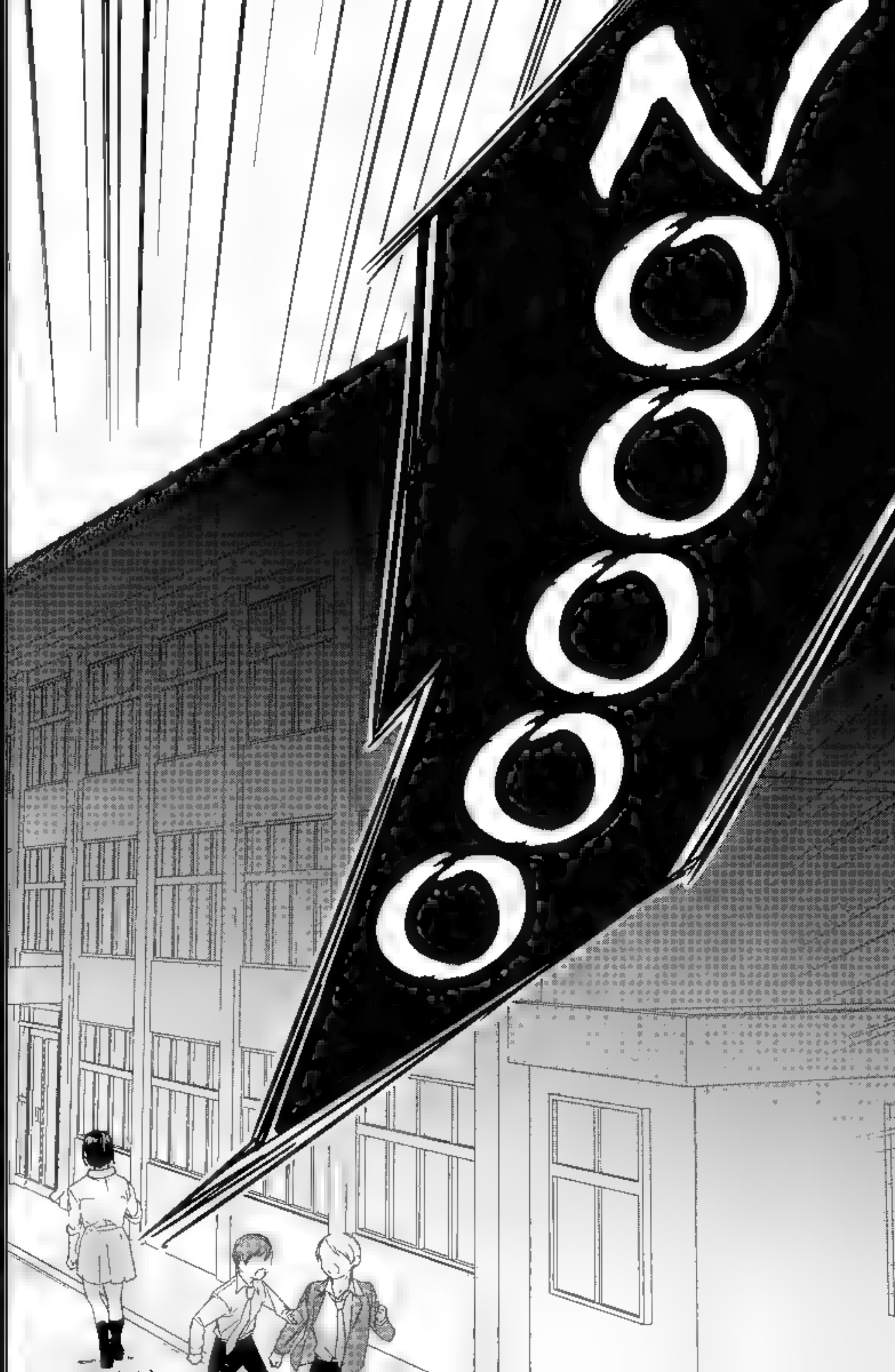


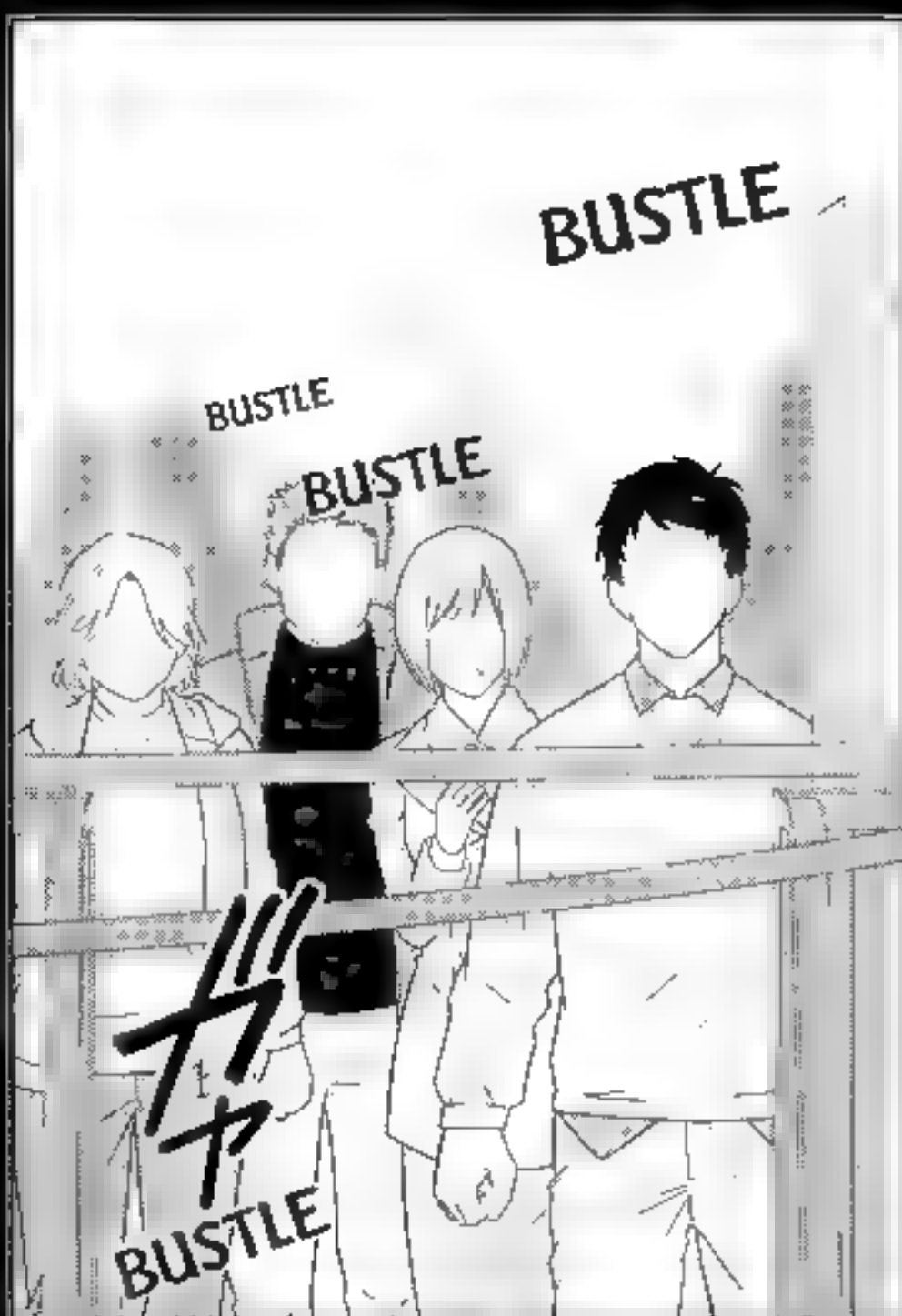
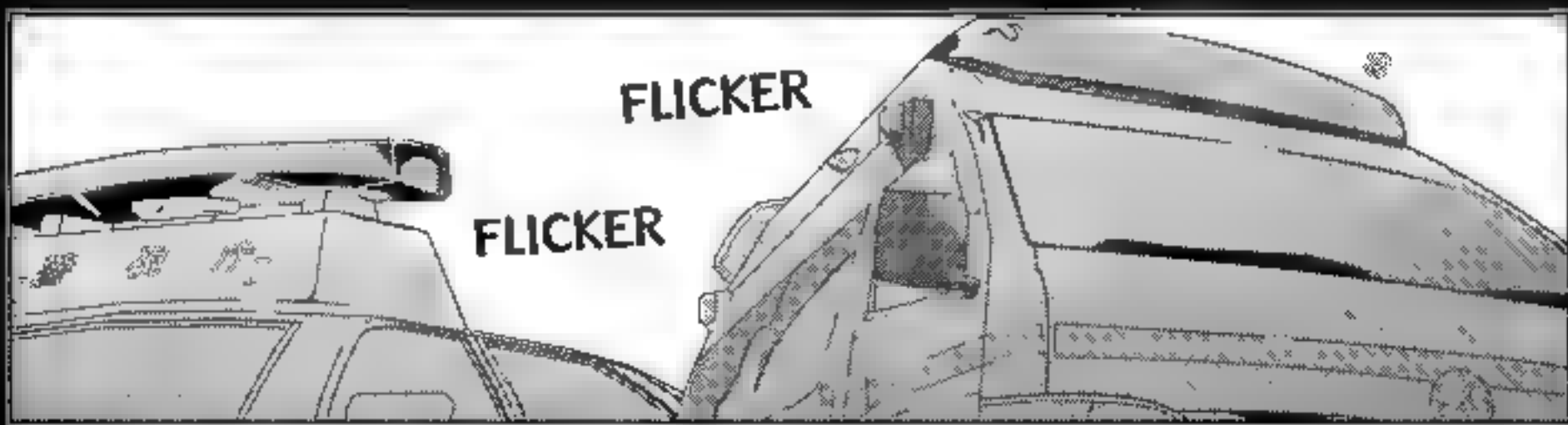


WAAH

EEK





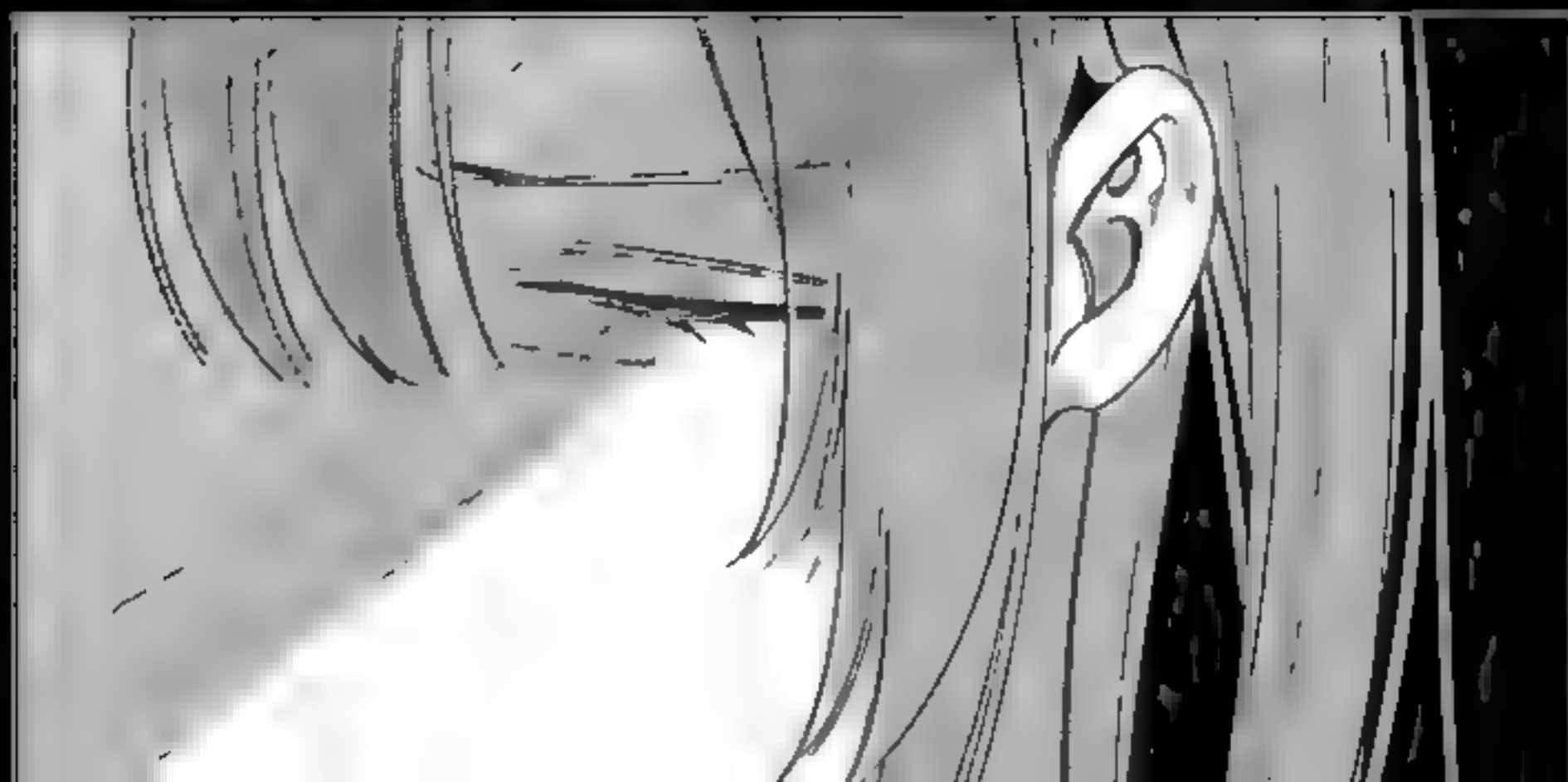
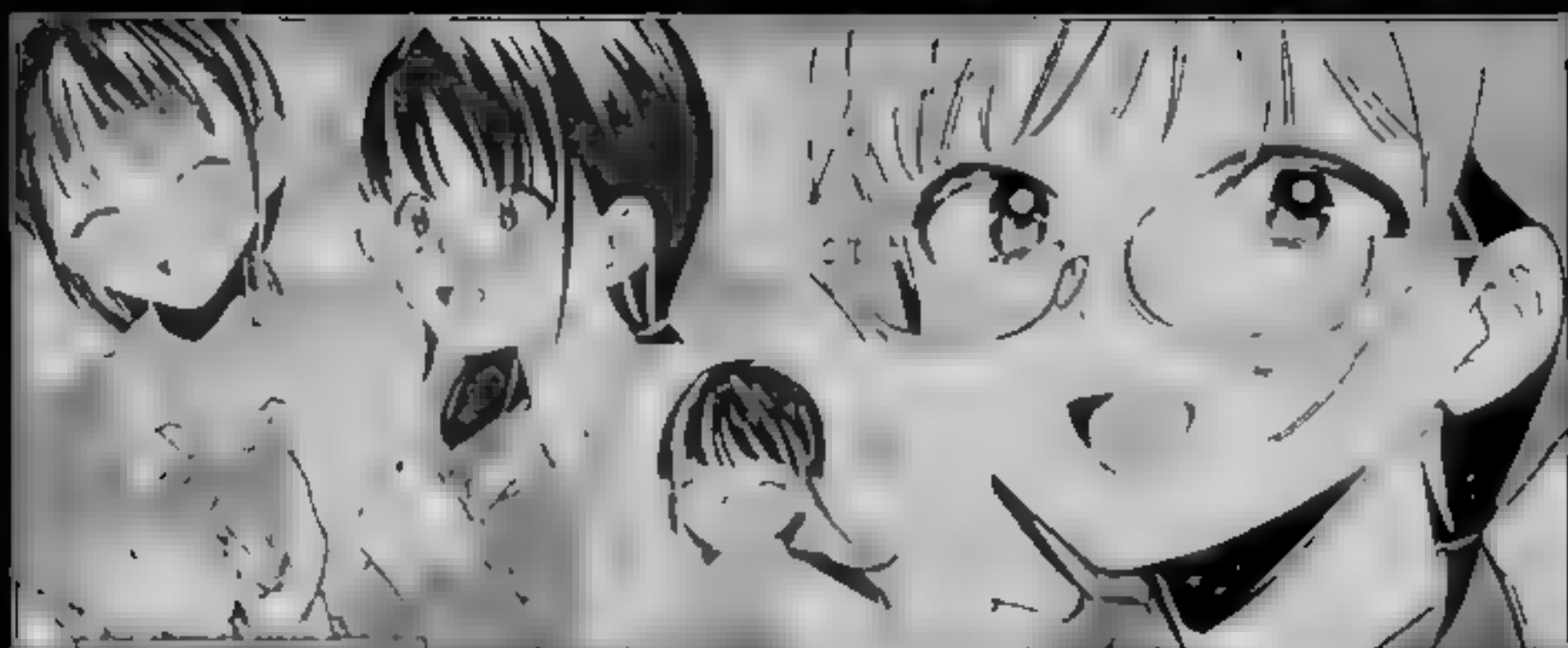






I DECIDED
TO PROTECT
YUKO

BUT I FAILED
TO REALIZE THE
REAL SOURCE
OF HER PAIN



I'M SORRY.



CHAPTER 47 END

HIGEHIRO

After Being Rejected,
I Shaved and Took
in a High School Runaway


HIGEHIRO

After Being Rejected,
I Shaved and Took
in a High School Runaway

CHAPTER 481

THE OGIMURA FAMILY AND COLLAPSE





AFTER YUKO
ENDED HER OWN
LIFE, I FELL INTO
THE DEPTHS OF
SADNESS AND
DESPAIR.

I THOUGHT WE
WERE GOING
TO ESCAPE
TOGETHER. BUT
INSTEAD ONLY
YUKO GOT OUT,
IN THE WORST
WAY POSSIBLE.

THAT YUKO CRIED,
GOT ANGRY, AND
THE SMILED AS IF
SHE HAD GIVEN
UP THE SCENE
PLAYED BACK IN
MY MIND OVER
AND OVER AGAIN

THE HEAD TEACHER
AND THE HEAD
POLICE OFFICER
ASKED ME ABOUT
THE DETAILS OF
THE INCIDENT T ME
AND TIME AGAIN I
ALWAYS ANSWERED
THE SAME THING

OF COURSE, I ALSO
HAD TO TELL MY
FAMILY ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED.



I SUPPOSE EVEN
YOU.. WOULDN'T
KILL ONE OF
YOUR OWN
CLASSMATES.



SHE WAS
MY ONLY
FRIEND IN
THE WORLD

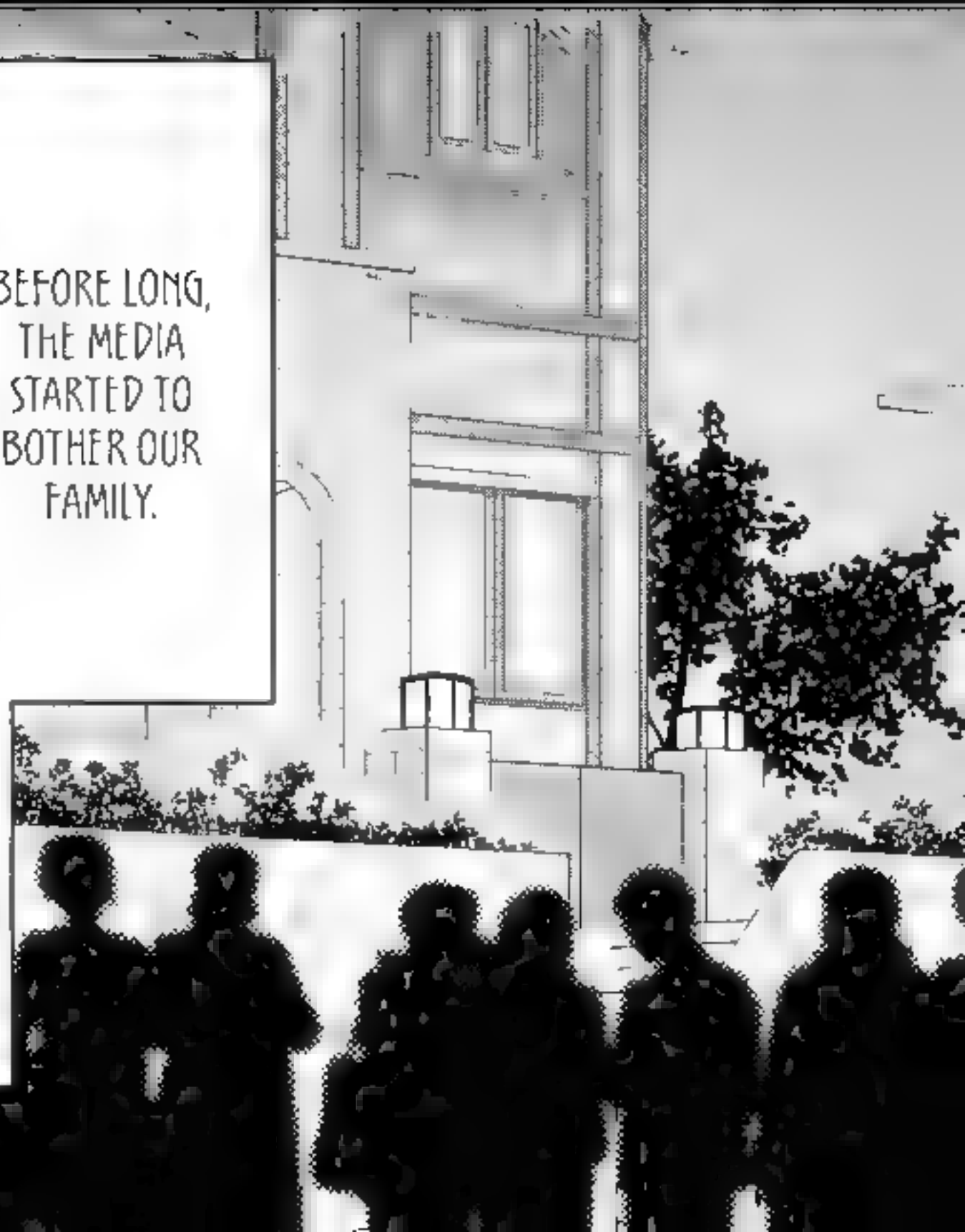


...NO. I WOULD
NEVER.



BEFORE LONG,
THE MEDIA
STARTED TO
BOTHER OUR
FAMILY.

THEY APPROACHED
ME ON MY WAY TO
AND FROM SCHOOL,
AND THEY RANG
THE DOORBELL
OVER AND OVER
AGAIN WHEN I WAS
AT HOME.





IT ALSO HAPPENED
EVEN WHEN I
WASN'T AROUND
IT GOT ON MOM'S
NERVES AND
STARTED TO DRIVE
HER CRAZY.

HE SOOTHED
MOM WHEN SHE
HAD A FIT OF
HYSTERIA AND,
WHENEVER HE
HAD A CHANCE,
CHECKED IN ON
ME TOO.



AROUND THAT
TIME, MY BROTHER
STARTED TO COME
HOME OFTEN, IN
SPITE OF HOW BUSY
HE WAS.



I CRIED IN
HIS ARMS SO
MANY TIMES.



SHE'S JUST
A
TEEN-

TESTIFY TO
THE FACT THAT SHE

CHAT
7
1

CHAT
7
1

SHUDDER



HAH

KUH
2
4



7
0
4
9
SHWW



TELL US ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED
WITH YOUR
FRIEND!



FLINCH

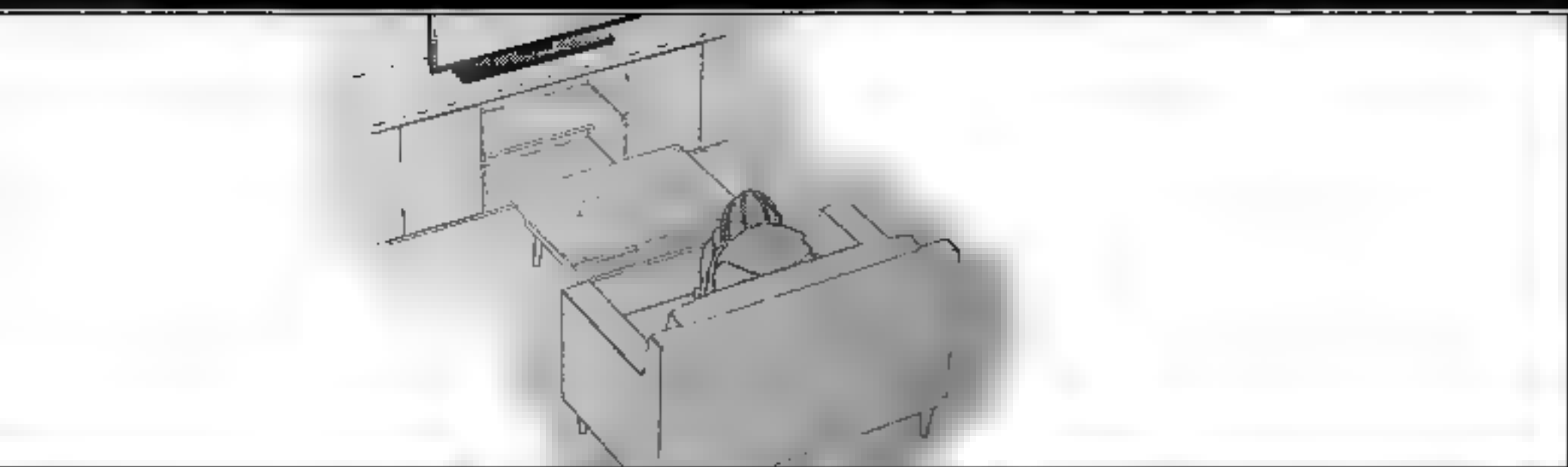
MISS OGIWARA!
I'D LIKE TO ASK
FOR A MOMENT
OF YOUR TIME—
I JUST WANT
TO ASK A FEW
QUESTIONS!



I HATE THEM!
THEY DON'T
HAVE ANYTHING
TO DO WITH
THIS!

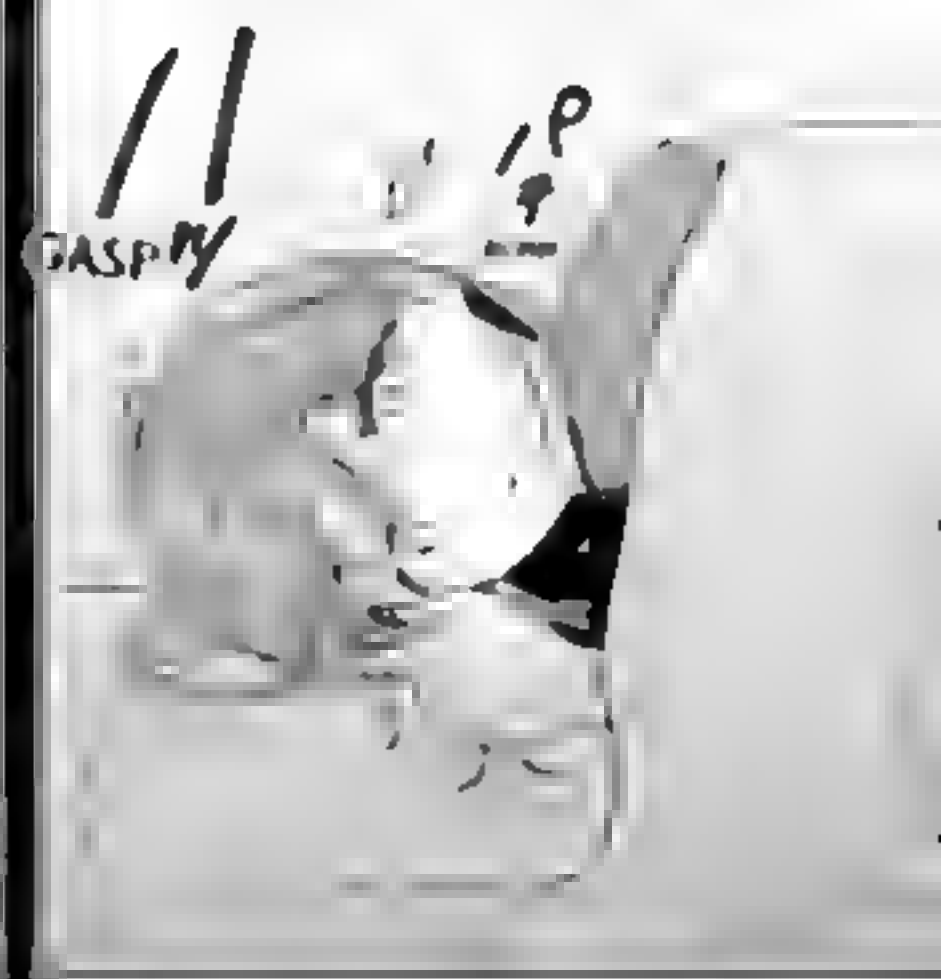
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!

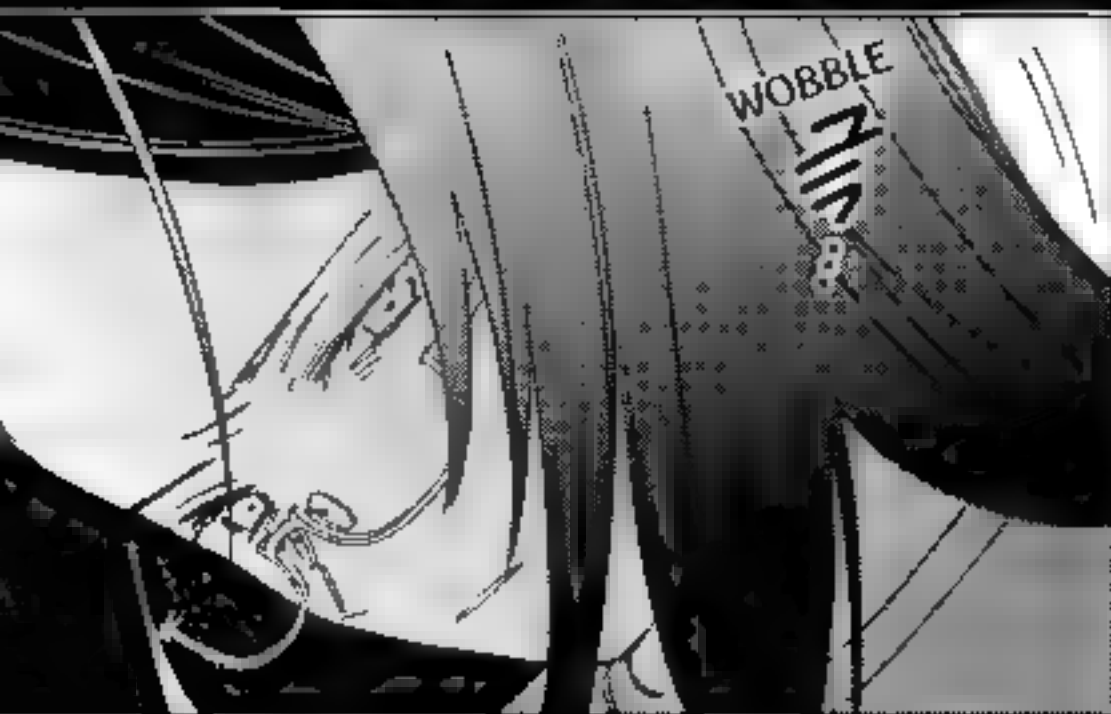
JUST GET
OUT OF
HERE!



THEN, THE DAY
ARRIVED WHEN
IT ALL FELL
APART

DAYS LIKE THAT
DRAINED THE
ENERGY FROM
THE THREE OF US
IN THE OGIWARA
HOUSEHOLD





THIS IS ALL
YOUR FAULT.

MOM ALWAYS
SAYS THAT LINE
WHEN SHE'S
HAVING A FIT
OF HYSTERIA.



GREAT.
HERE WE
GO.

MOM HAS
NEVER LOVED
ME BECAUSE
OF THAT.

MY WHOLE
EXISTENCE IS
ONE WORD
TO HER,
"UNFAIR".



BUT SUPPOSEDLY
MOM GIVING
BIRTH TO ME
WAS WHAT LED
TO HER AND
DAD GETTING
DIVORCED.

I'VE NEVER
HEARD THE
FULL STORY





I'M SORRY

JUST WHEN ISSA IS
DOING SO WELL AT
WORK TO INHERIT
YOUR FATHER'S
COMPANY, YOU HAD
TO BRING IN SOME
NUISANCE! YOU
ALWAYS DO!



IT FELT
HORRIBLE,
BUT I WAS
USED TO IT

SO THAT'S
WHAT I
ALWAYS
DID

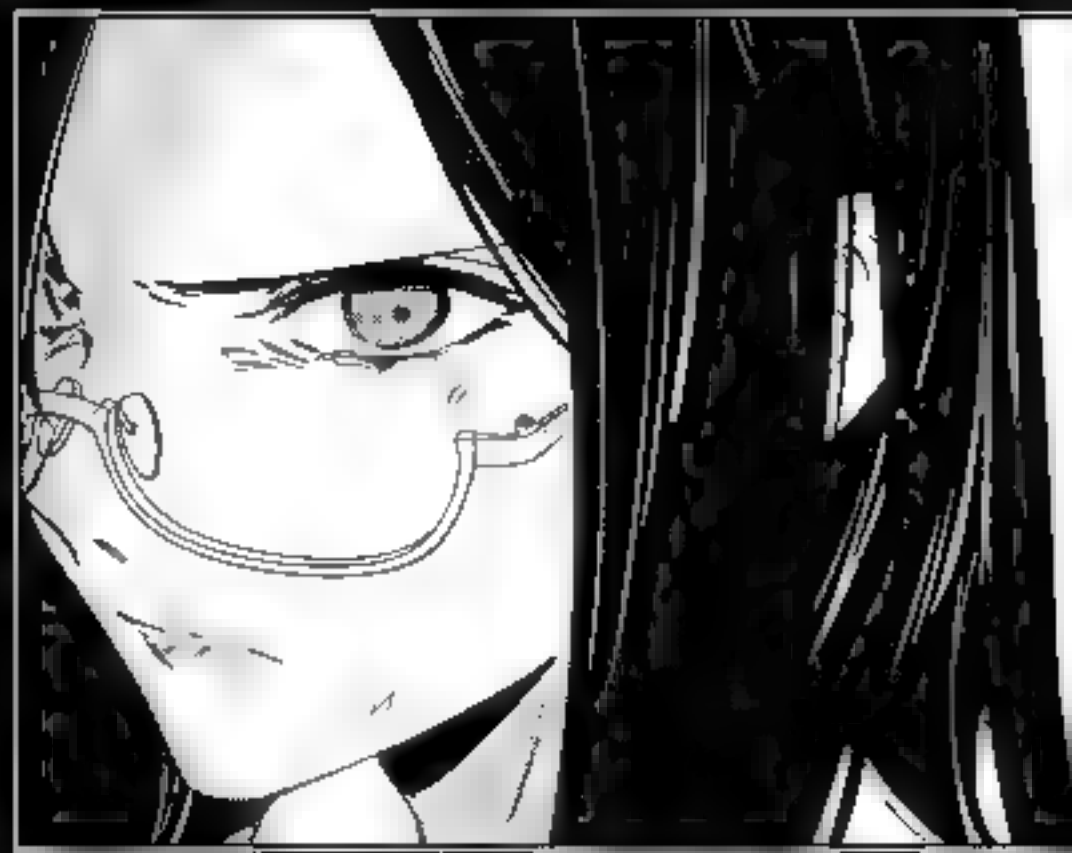
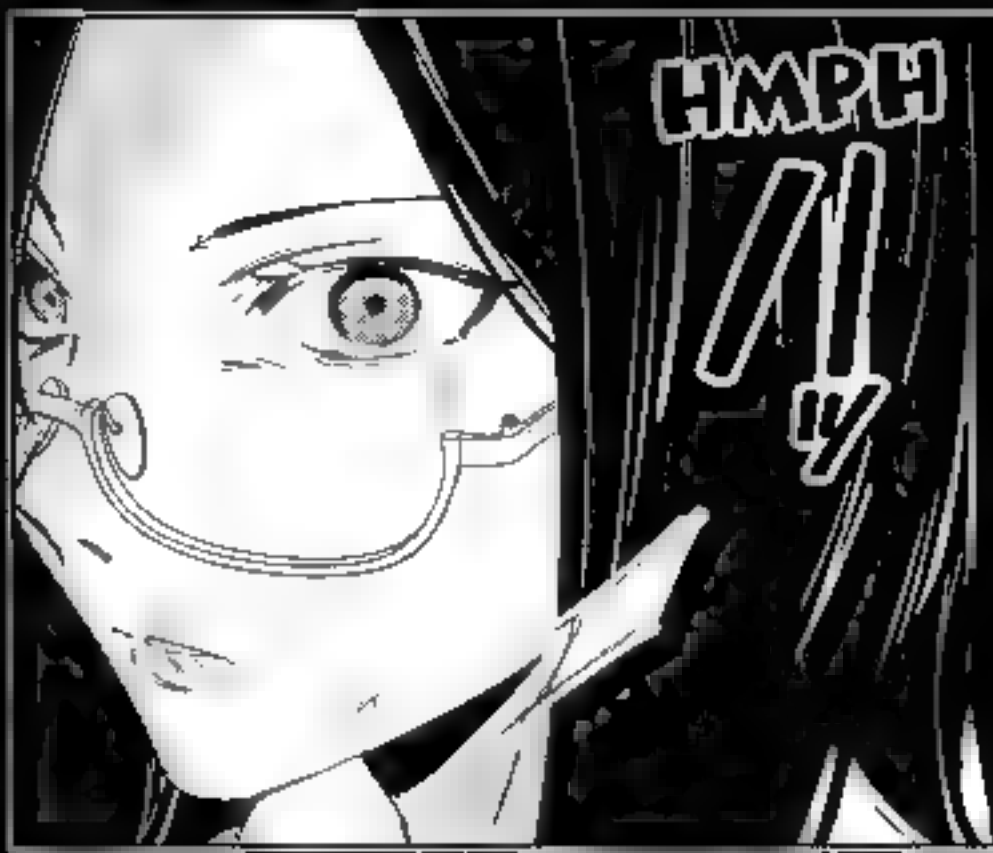
IF I JUST KEPT
APOLOGIZING
AT SOME
POINT MOM
WOULD BE
SATISFIED



SHOUT


IT'S
ALL BECAUSE YOU
HAVE TO GO AND
HAVE SOME BEST
FRIEND! I BET YOU
DIDN'T EVEN LIKE
HER THAT MUCH!

WHY DOES SOME
OTHER PERSON'S
SUICIDE HAVE
TO DRAG US INTO
SUCH A MESS?!





UNLESS...



YOU DIDN'T
ACTUALLY
KILL HER,
DID YOU?

WHEN
SHE SAID
THAT,
THE DAM
BROKE.






TMP

SMACK

**HOW
DARE
YOU
SAY
THAT!**

**OF
COURSE I
DIDN'T!!**



**YOU HAVE
NO IDEA
HOW I FEEL!
BECAUSE OF
ME**

**THE FIRST
FRIEND I
COULD EVER
BE MYSELF
AROUND GOT
BULLIED!**

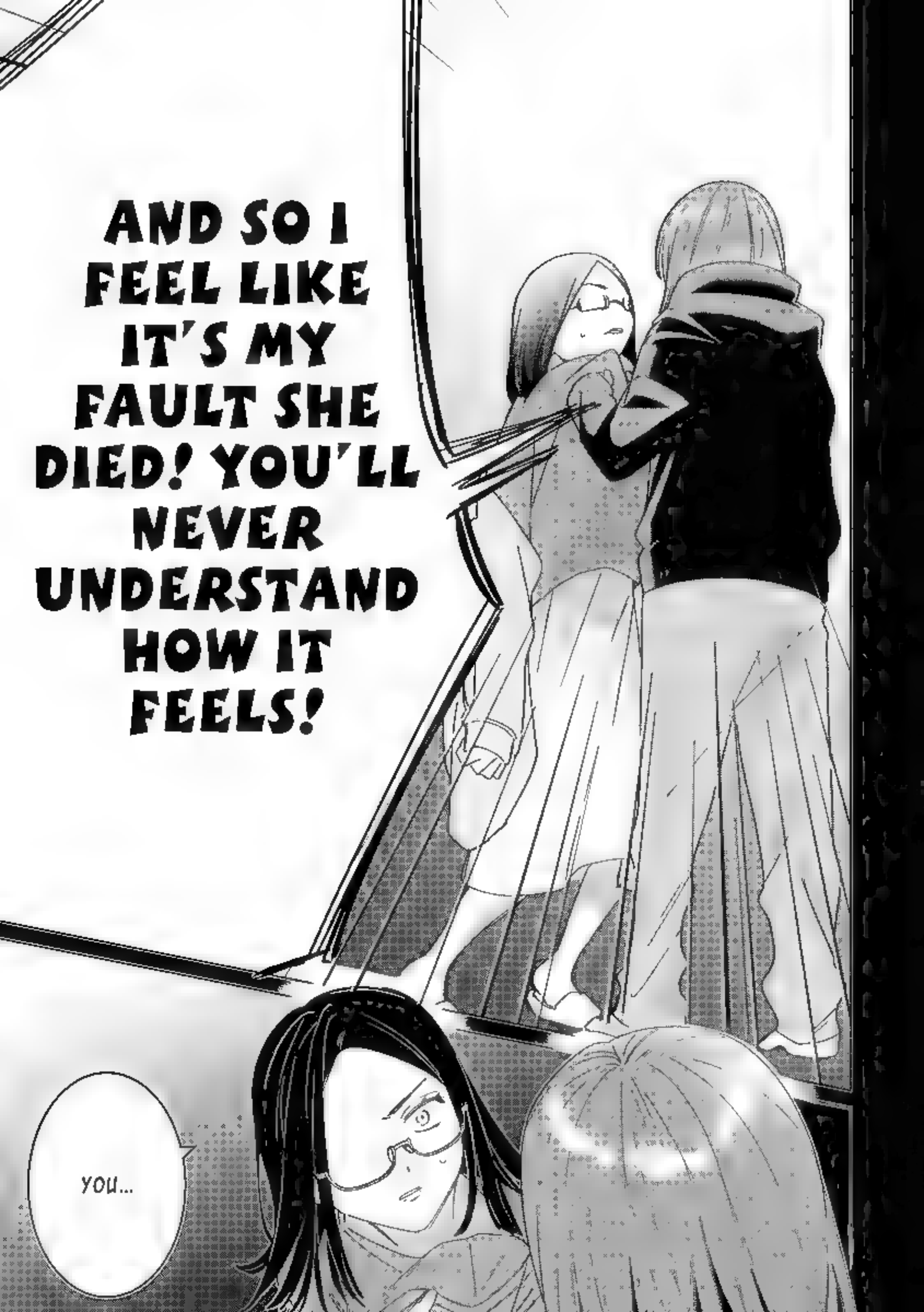
QUIVER

QUIVER

714

**AND SO I
FEEL LIKE
IT'S MY
FAULT SHE
DIED! YOU'LL
NEVER
UNDERSTAND
HOW IT
FEELS!**

you...





SLUMP

**IF I'M
SUCH A
NUISANCE
THEN I'LL
DO YOU
A FAVOR
AND
LEAVE!**

AGH!

**I CAN'T
STAND THE
HORRIBLE
THINGS
YOU SAY
ANYMORE!**



RUSTLE

THUMP





SAYU, IS THAT
YOUR SCHOOL
UNIFORM? SO
YOU WANT TO GO
TO SCHOOL NOW?

TUG

NO. I'M
LEAVING.

CLACK

WHAT'S ALL
THE NOISE?



STOMP-
STOMP

STOMP-
STOMP




LEAVING?
WHERE?

ANYWHERE!
AND I'M NOT
COMING
BACK!

HEY!





MOM... SHE
SAID THAT I
WAS REALLY
THE ONE
WHO KILLED
YUKO! SHE
SAID THAT!

SHOUT!



SHE... SHE
SAID THAT,
HUH?



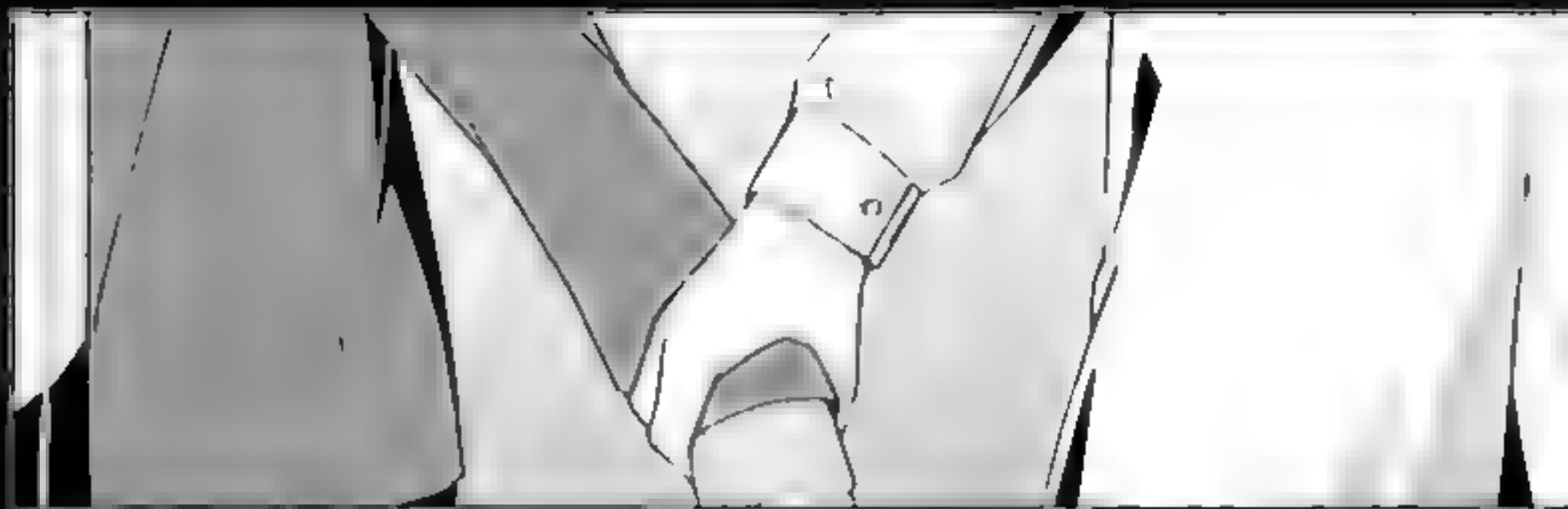
MAYBE IT IS FOR
THE BEST THAT
YOU GET SOME
DISTANCE FROM
MOM RIGHT NOW.

YOU AND MOM
STAYING SANE IS
MORE IMPORTANT
THAN PUBLIC
DECENCY.



NNMM

NNMM



I THOUGHT HE
WAS TRYING TO
STOP ME



AH
OKAY

LET'S GO
TO THE
STATION
TOGETHER.



CHAPTER 48 END

HIGEHIRO

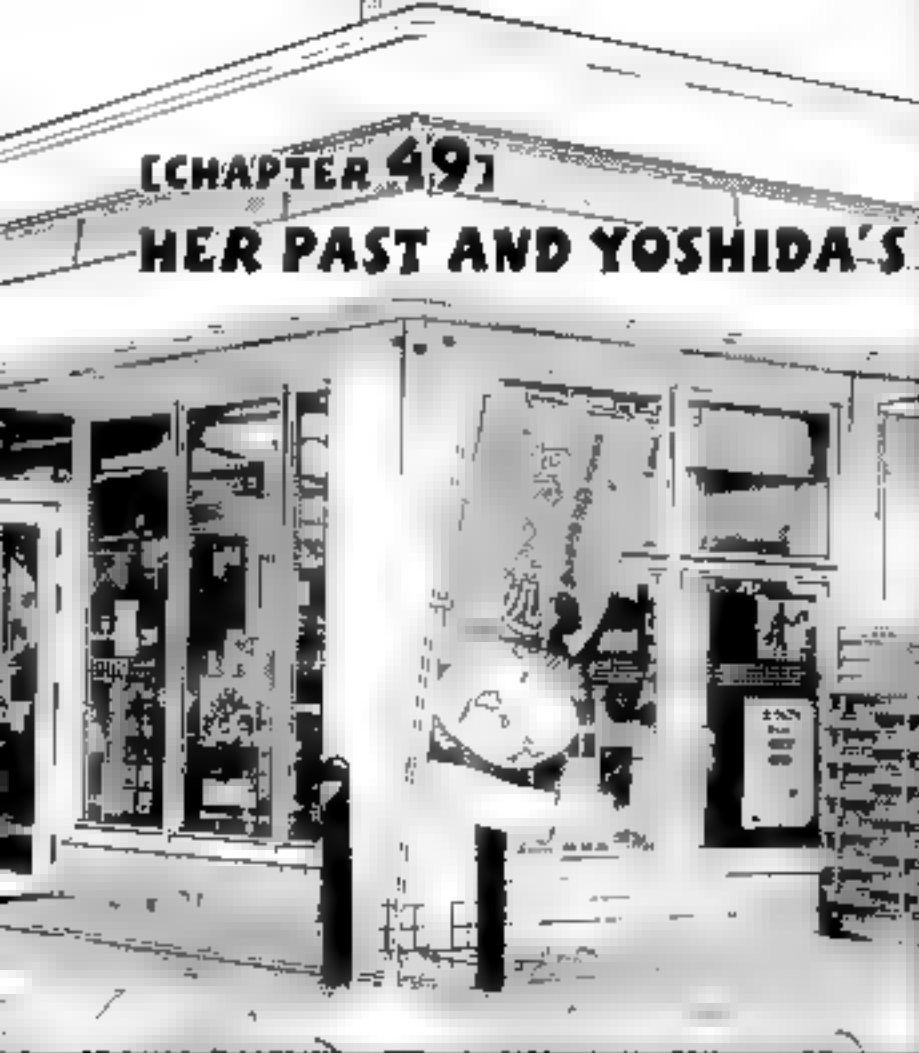
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HIGEHIRO

After Being Rejected,
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[CHAPTER 49]

HER PAST AND YOSHIDA'S WISH



LISTEN UP.
NUMBER
ONE, STAY
IN GOOD
HOTELS.


AND NUMBER TWO,
IF YOU EVER FEEL
YOU'RE IN ANY
SORT OF DANGER,
CONTACT ME
RIGHT AWAY.

PROMISE
ME THOSE
TWO
THINGS.






THAT'S 300,000
YEN. IF YOU'RE
CAREFUL, IT
SHOULD LAST YOU
MORE THAN TWO
WEEKS.



I THINK IT'D
BE A LOT MORE
OF A NUISANCE
TO LEAVE HOME
WITHOUT ANY
MONEY.




WHAT!
I CAN'T!



...THANKS.

PAT



SO LONG AS
YOU KEEP YOUR
PROMISE TO
ME, I'LL DO
WHAT I CAN
TO FIX THINGS
WITH MOM.



YOU'VE DONE
A GREAT JOB
HANGING IN
THERE. NOW TRY
TO TAKE A REST.

WITH THAT, MY
LONG, LONG
JOURNEY RUNNING
FROM HOME
BEGAN.





...WHAT
EVEN
AM I?

MY PARENTS
WEREN'T HAPPY
THAT I WAS
BORN.

MY BROTHER
CARES FOR ME,
BUT I KNOW JUST
HOW MUCH HE
PITIES ME TOO

AND MY ONLY
FRIEND DIED
BECAUSE OF



BECOMING
PHYSICALLY
ISOLATED
FURTHER
INTENSIFIED MY
LONELINESS.



STAYING AT HOTELS
FOR THIS LONG
I FIGURED YOU
WOULD'VE RUN OUT
OF MONEY A WHILE
AGO

WHICH
HOTEL?

A HOTEL.

WHERE ARE
YOU NOW?



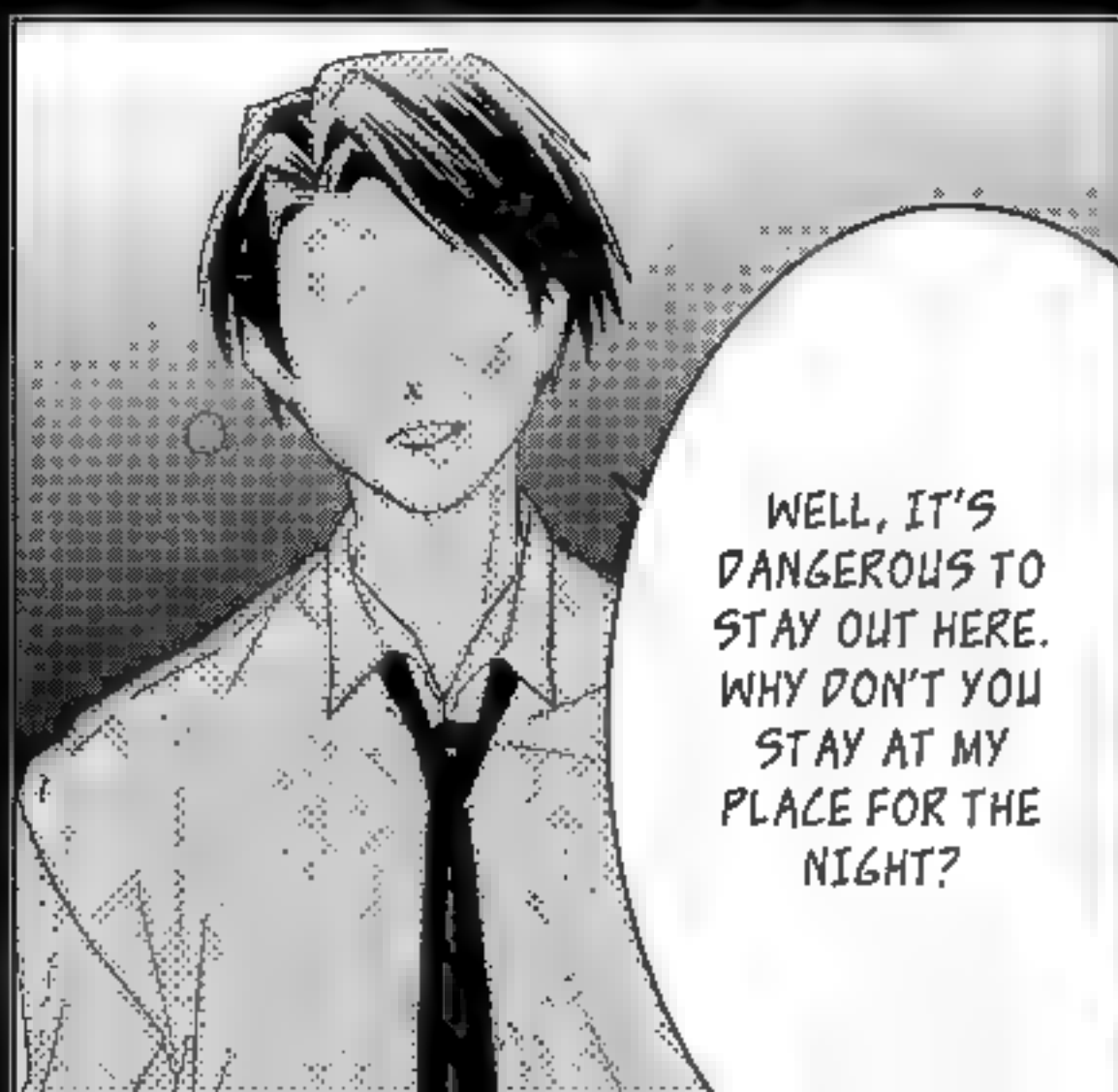
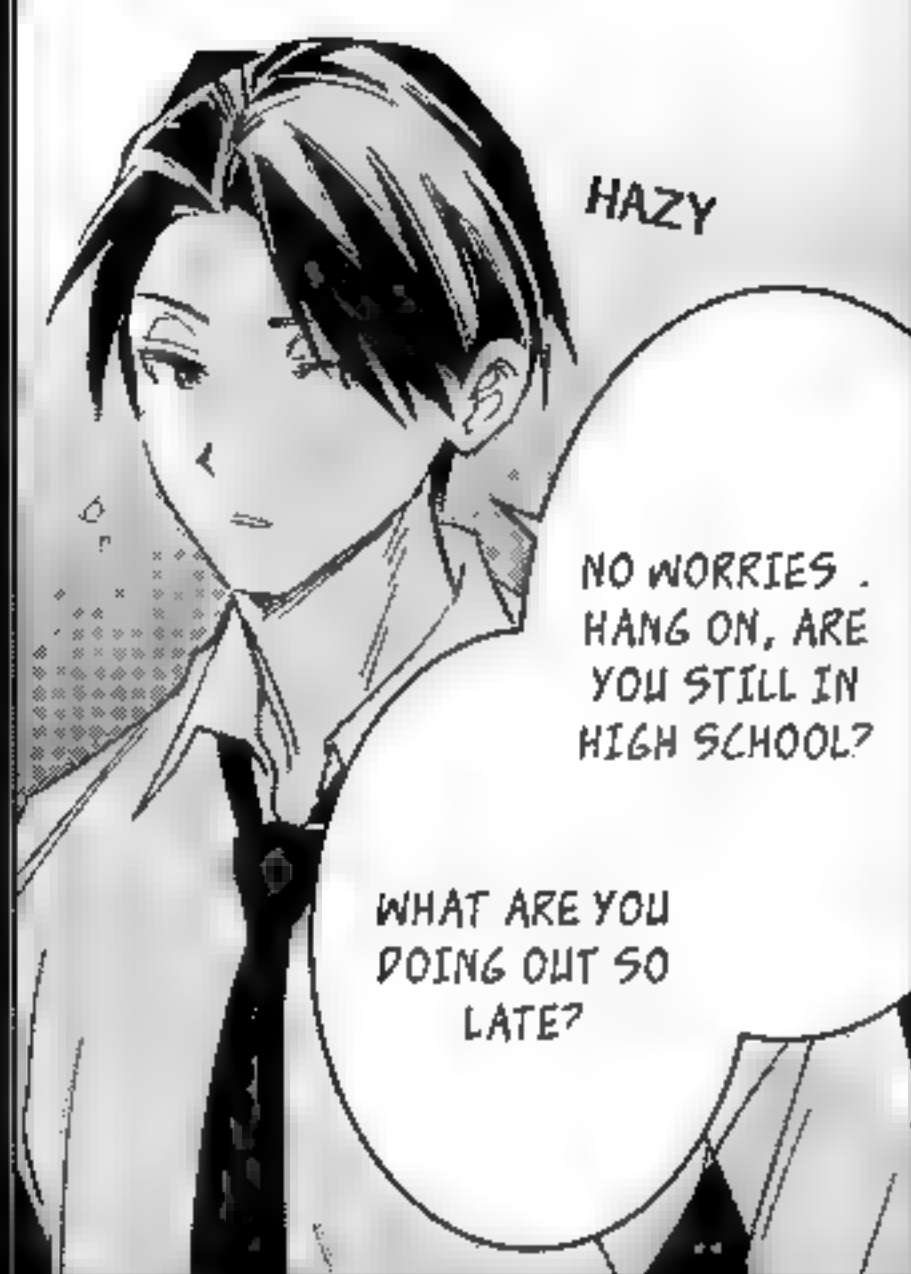
MY BROTHER'S
CHECK-INS FELT
LIKE A DRAG, AND
AT SOME POINT I
DECIDED TO JUST
TOSS MY PHONE

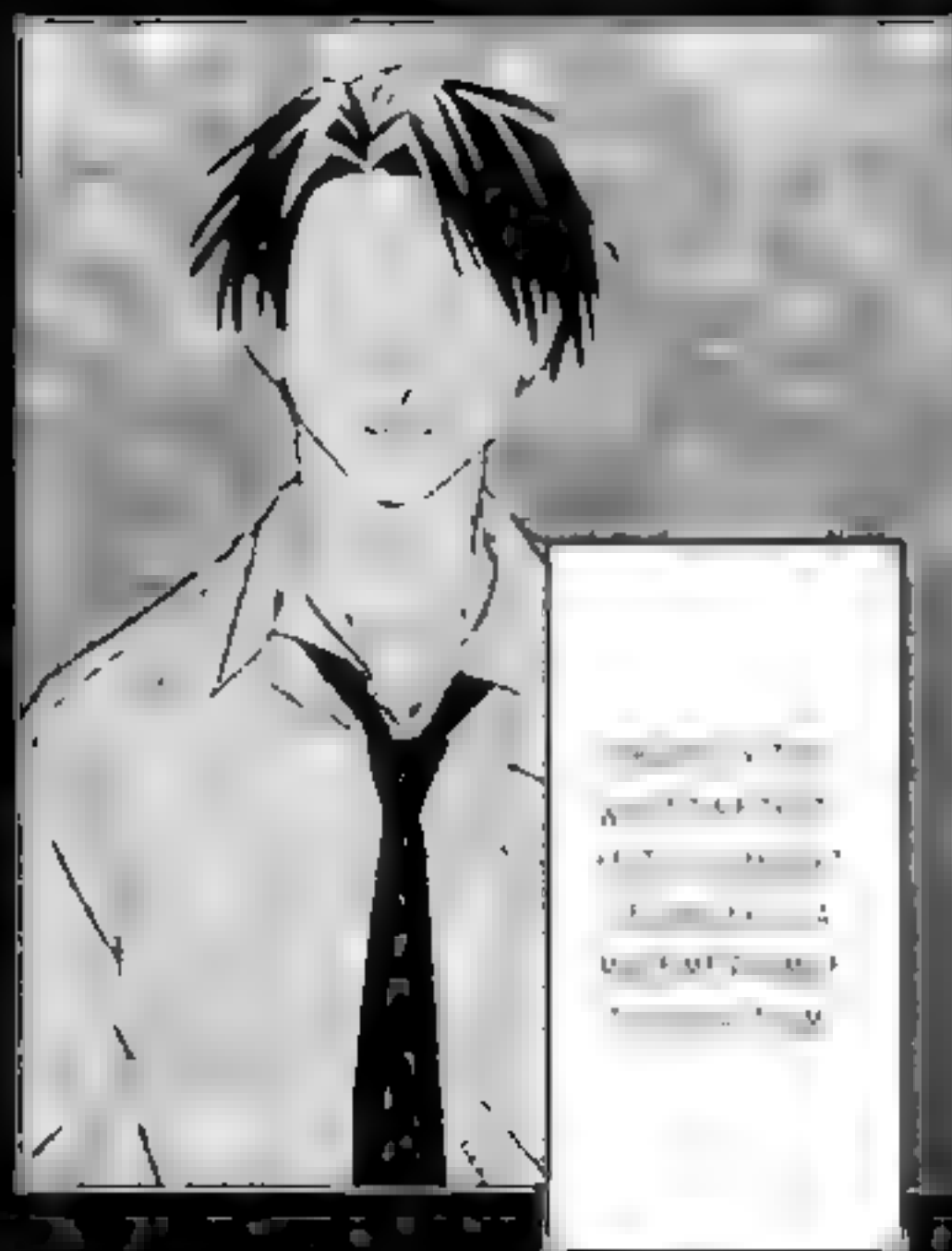
I STARTED TO
GET CARELESS,
FAST.

...



I REALIZED I
DEFINITELY
DIDN'T WANT TO
GO BACK HOME,
WHERE MOM
WAS







BUT,





YOU
DON'T
MIND?





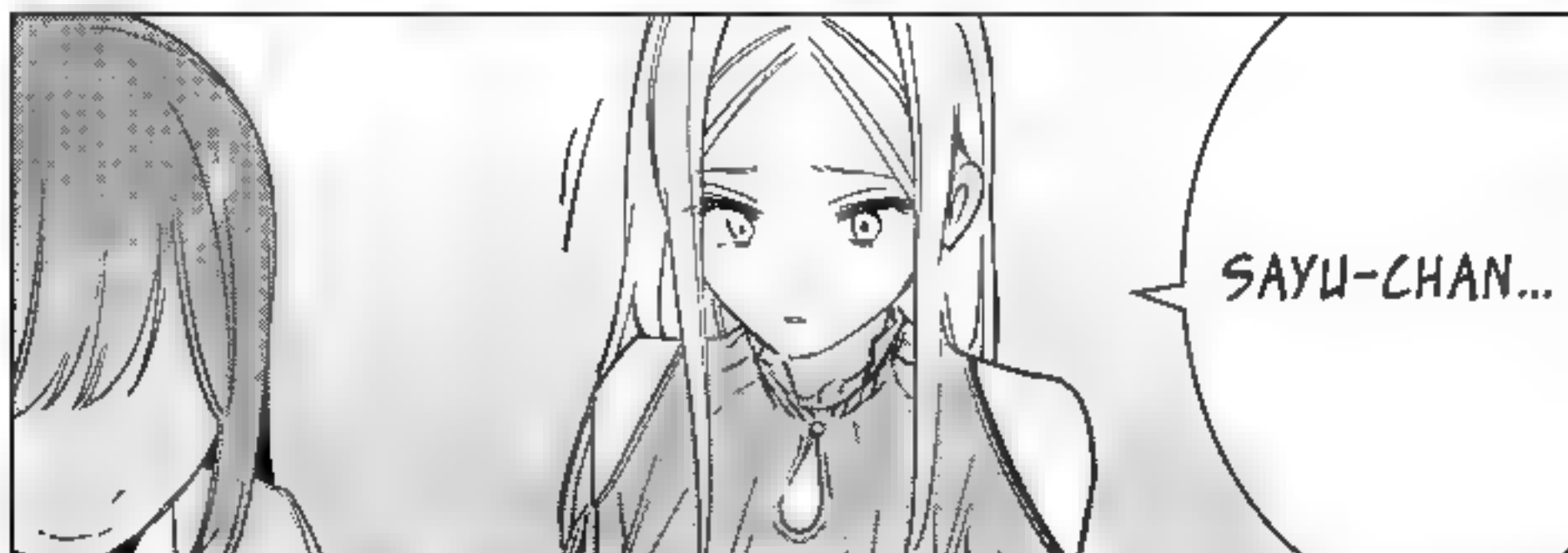
AT FIRST, I DID
HONESTLY THINK
HE WOULD LET ME
STAY WITH HIM
OUT OF GOOD WILL,
BUT THAT DIDN'T
HAPPEN.

...THAT'S HOW
IT STARTED.
I NEVER WENT
BACK HOME.



I WANTED TO DO
ANYTHING BUT GO
HOME. SO I JUST
SAID YES.

A FEW DAYS IN,
HE STARTED
ASKING ME
DIRECTLY...





I KNEW THAT IF I
OFFERED MY BODY,
I'D HAVE A PLACE TO
STAY, SO I DID THAT
ALL THE WAY HERE.

I TOLD THE
REST TO YOU,
YOSHIDA-SAN
IF I DID IT ONCE

I FIGURED
WHAT WAS THE
DIFFERENCE IF I
DID IT AGAIN?



I KEPT RUNNING
AWAY, NO REAL
IDEA WHAT I
WAS DOING...

THEN I MET
YOSHIDA-SAN.





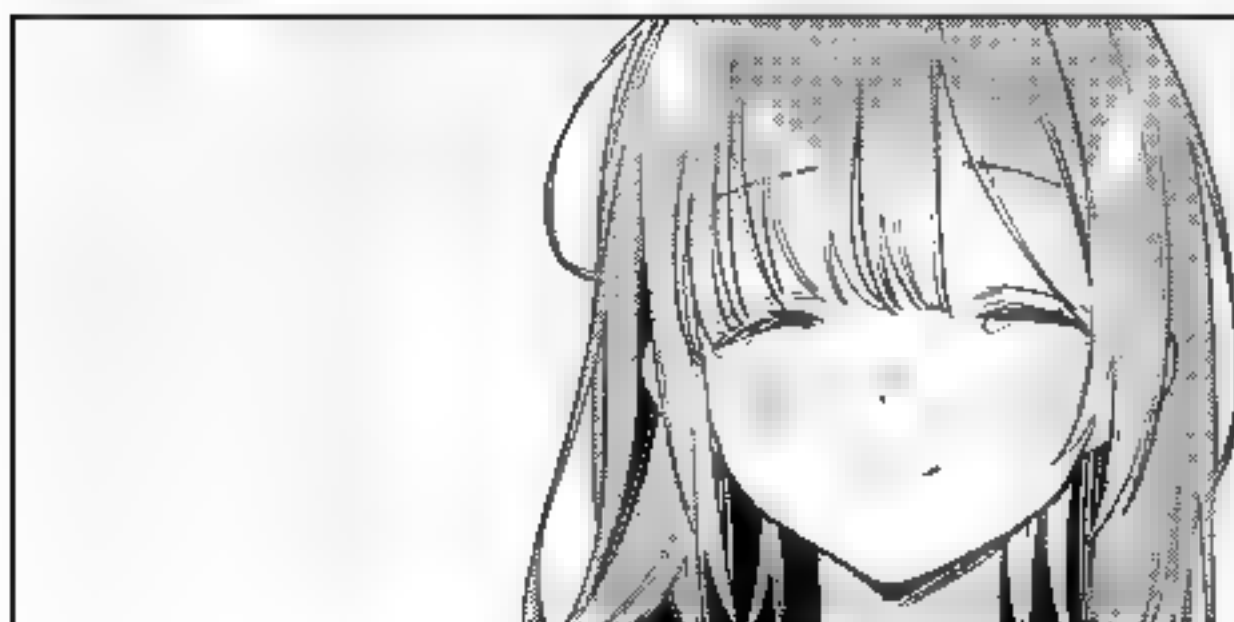
THANKS FOR
SHARING,
SAYU



I-P...
SIGH



SO THAT'S
THE STORY,
HUH



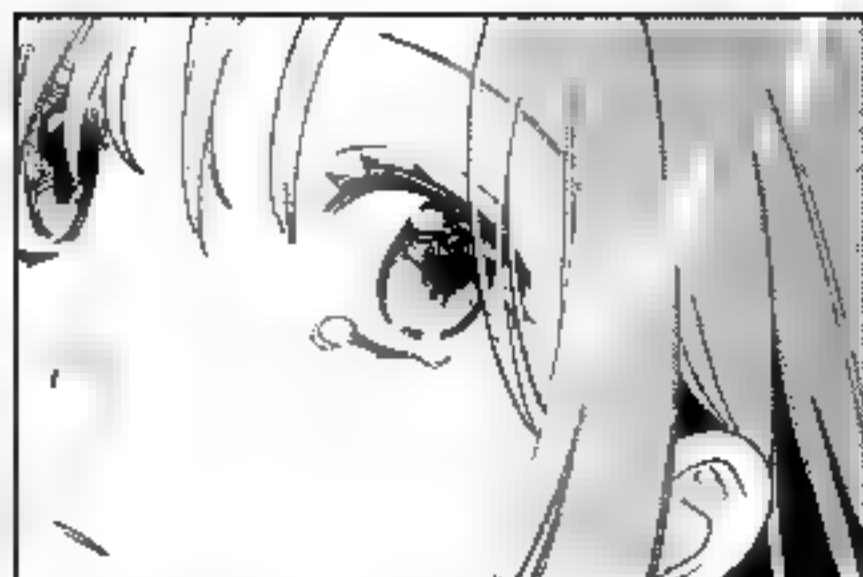
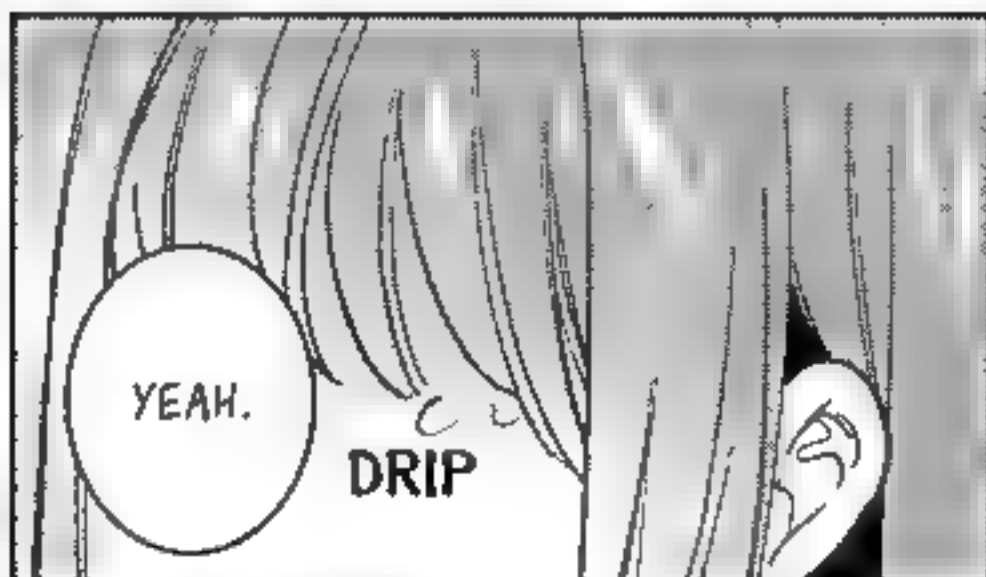
THANKS FOR
LISTENING.



YOU'VE GONE
THROUGH A
LOT. I'M REALLY
IMPRESSED.



HEY,
SAYU-CHAN.



HUG

YOU'RE AMAZING, GIRL.





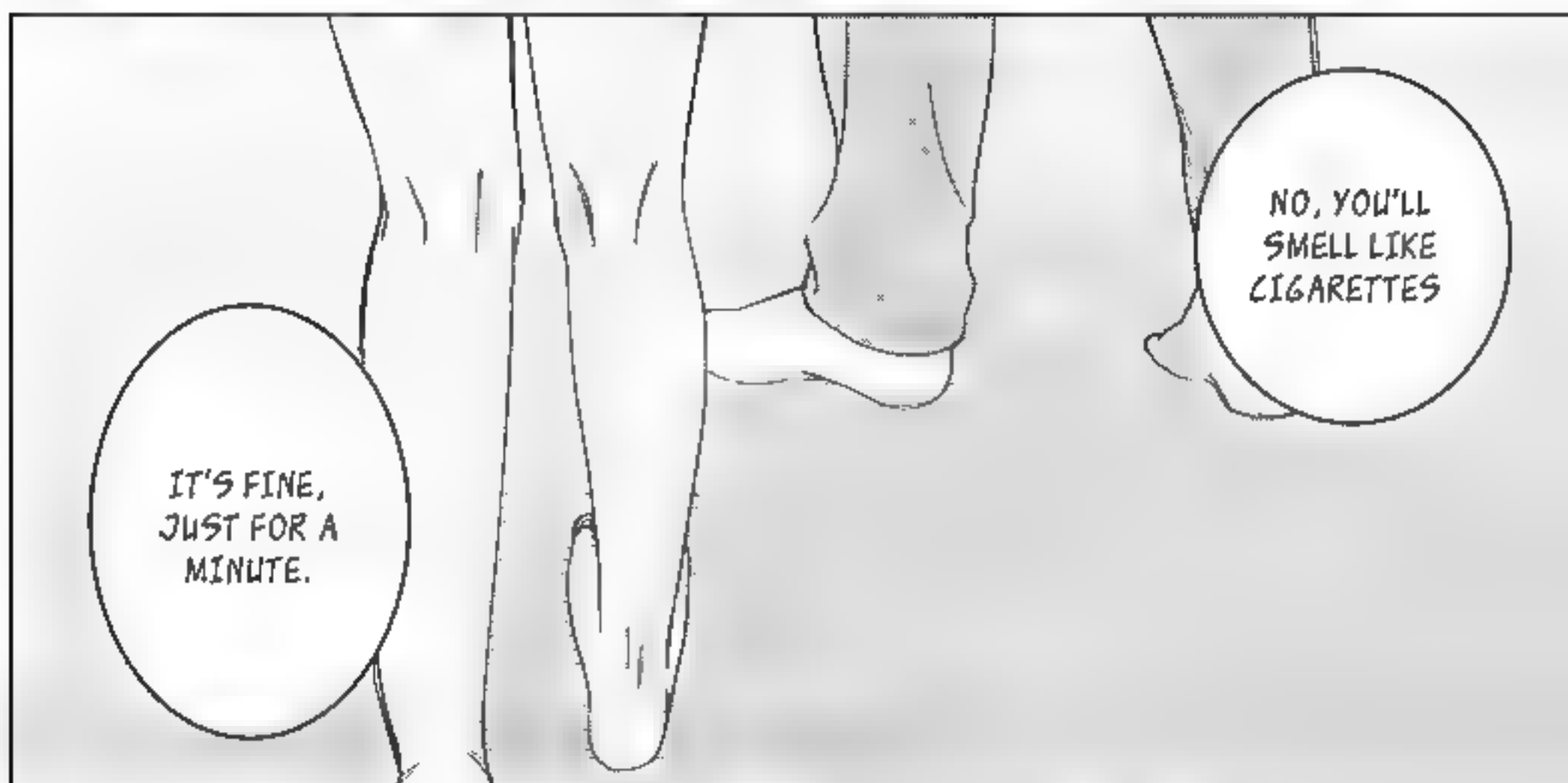
SHE MUST BE
EXHAUSTED
JUST TELLING
THAT STORY.



GO RIIIGHT
AHEAD.
ACTUALLY, I'LL
JOIN YOU ON
THE BALCONY.

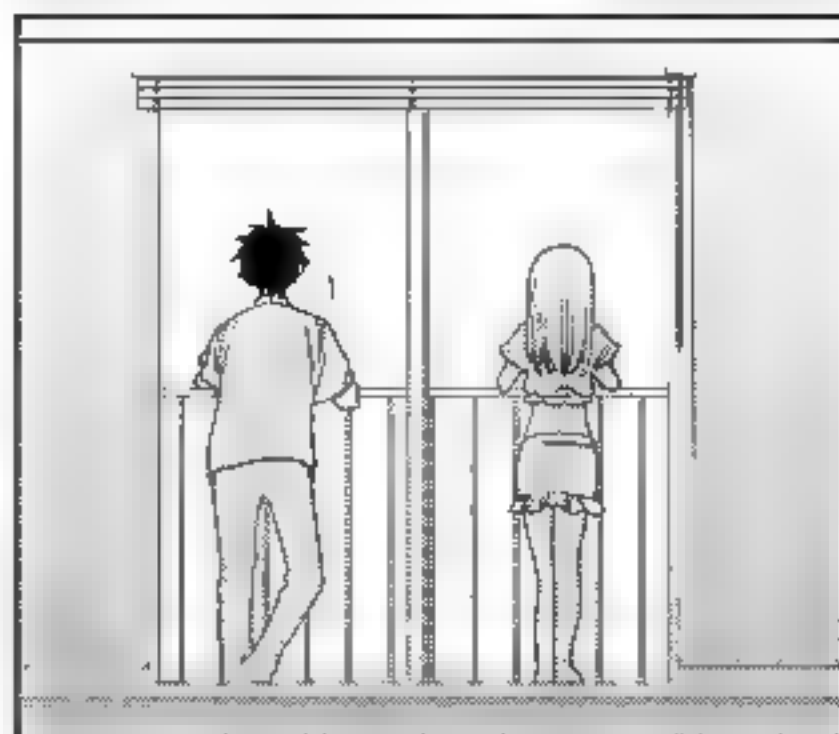
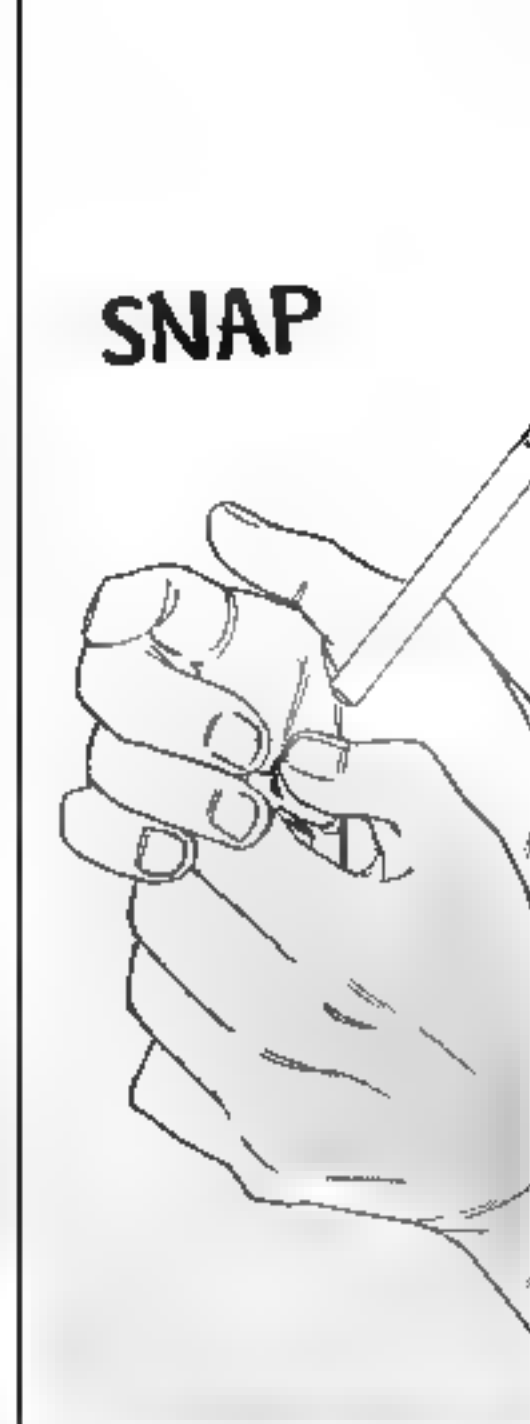
SORRY,
MIND IF I GO
SMOKE?

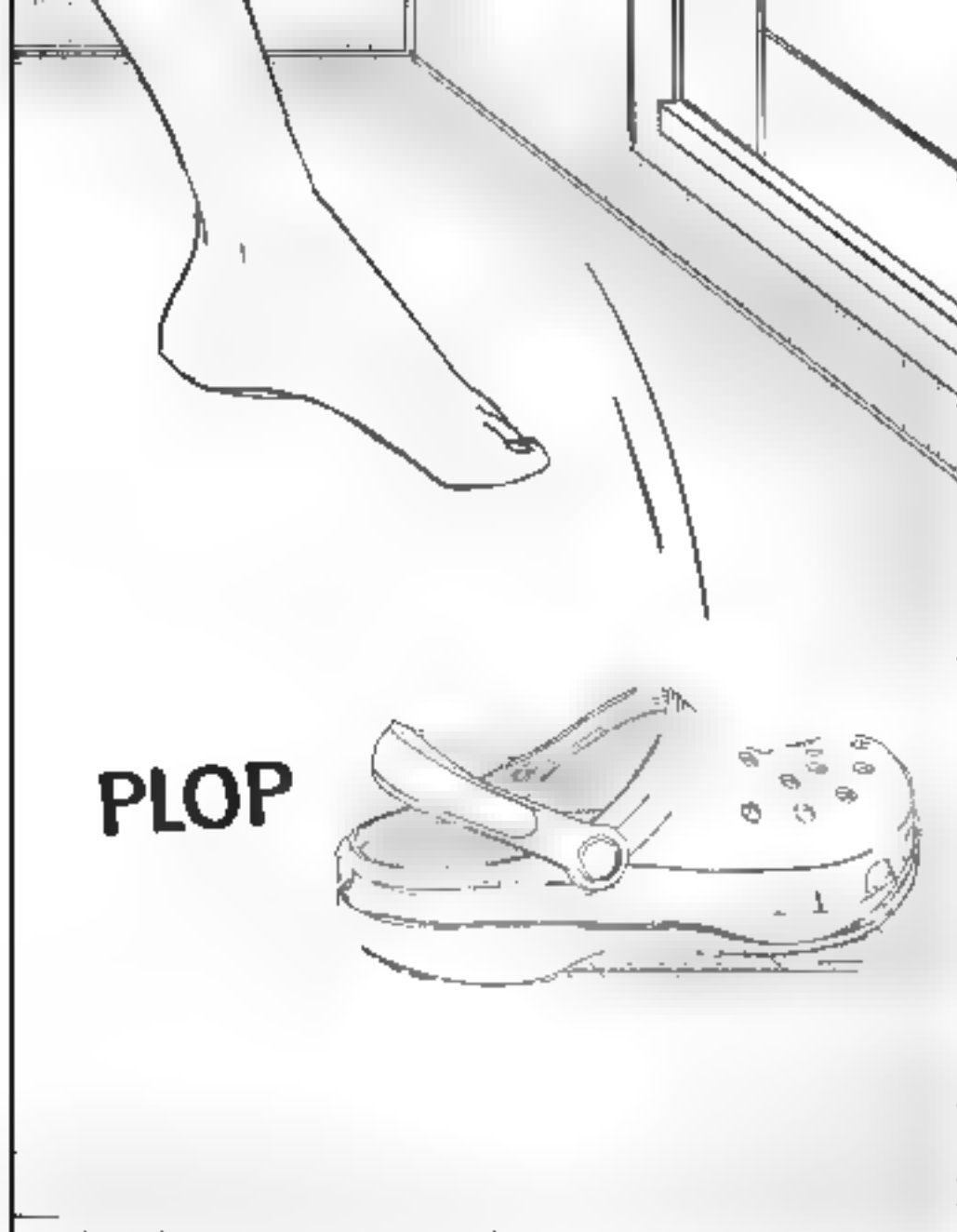
TMP



IT'S FINE,
JUST FOR A
MINUTE.

NO, YOU'LL
SMELL LIKE
CIGARETTES





PLOP



YOU'RE
ASKING ME
THAT?

WELL, I
WAS PRETTY
SHOOK



BUT I
HONESTLY
WASN'T
EXPECTING IT
TO BE THAT
DARK.

I FIGURED
SOMETHING
MUST'VE
HAPPENED.

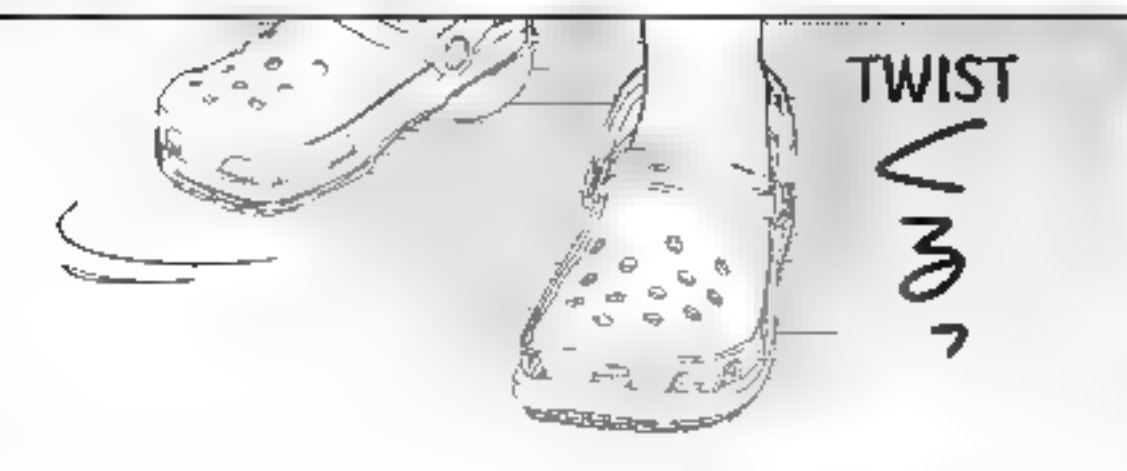


...YEAH,
SAME
HERE.



I'M NOT SURE
EVEN AN
ADULT COULD
DEAL WITH
THAT.

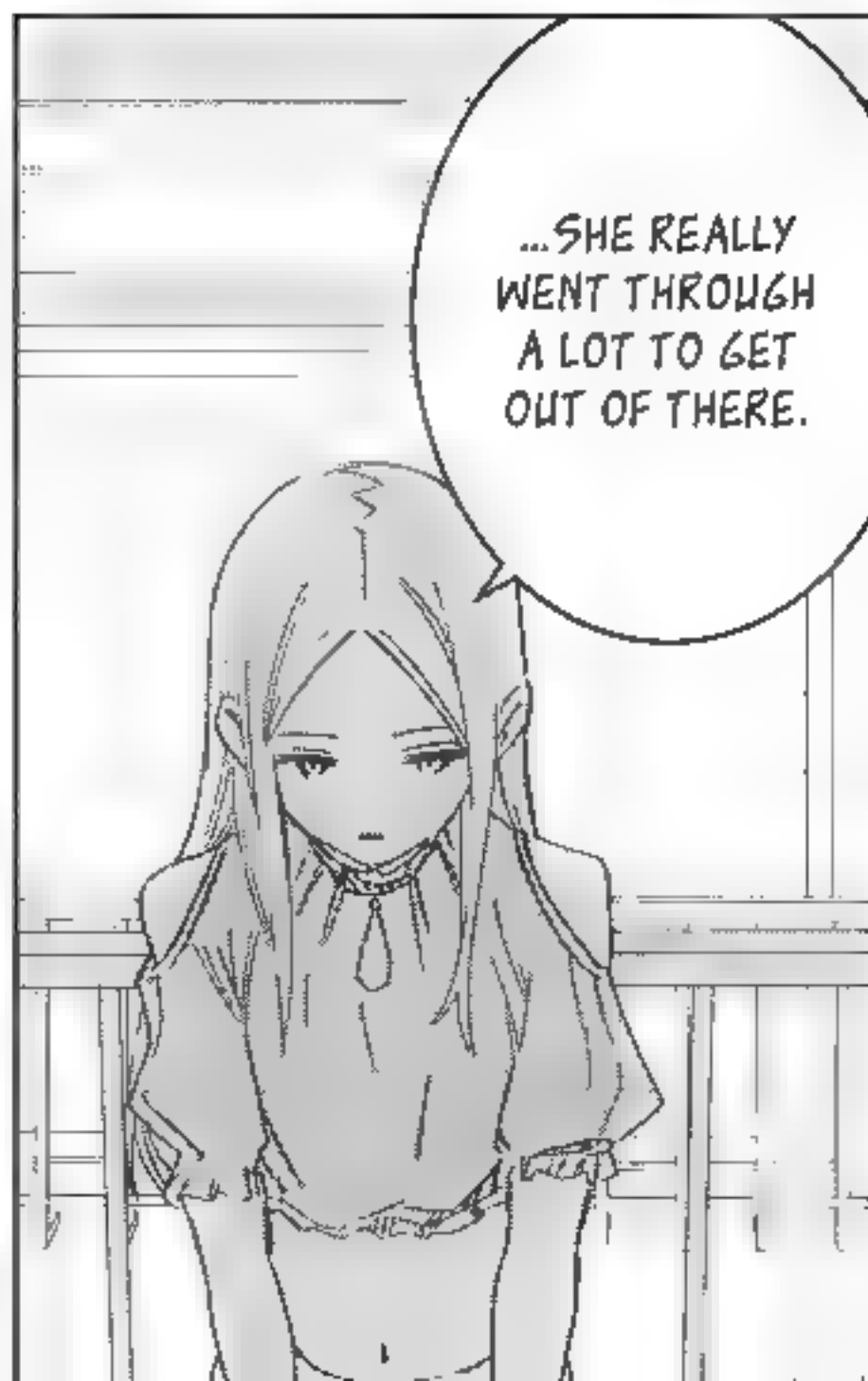
MAKING A FRIEND,
ONLY FOR THAT
FRIEND TO DIE,
AND THEN FOR YOUR
OWN MOTHER, THE
CLOSEST PERSON TO
YOU IN THE WORLD,
TO NOT TAKE YOUR
SIDE...



TWIST



WHAP!



...SHE REALLY
WENT THROUGH
A LOT TO GET
OUT OF THERE.



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
SOMEONE
LIKE ME?

BECAUSE OF HOW
HARD SHE WORKED
TO RUN AWAY,
SHE GOT TO MEET
SOMEONE LIKE YOU,
YOSHIDA-BRO.



HAHA!

THAT'S
PRAISE,
BRO.

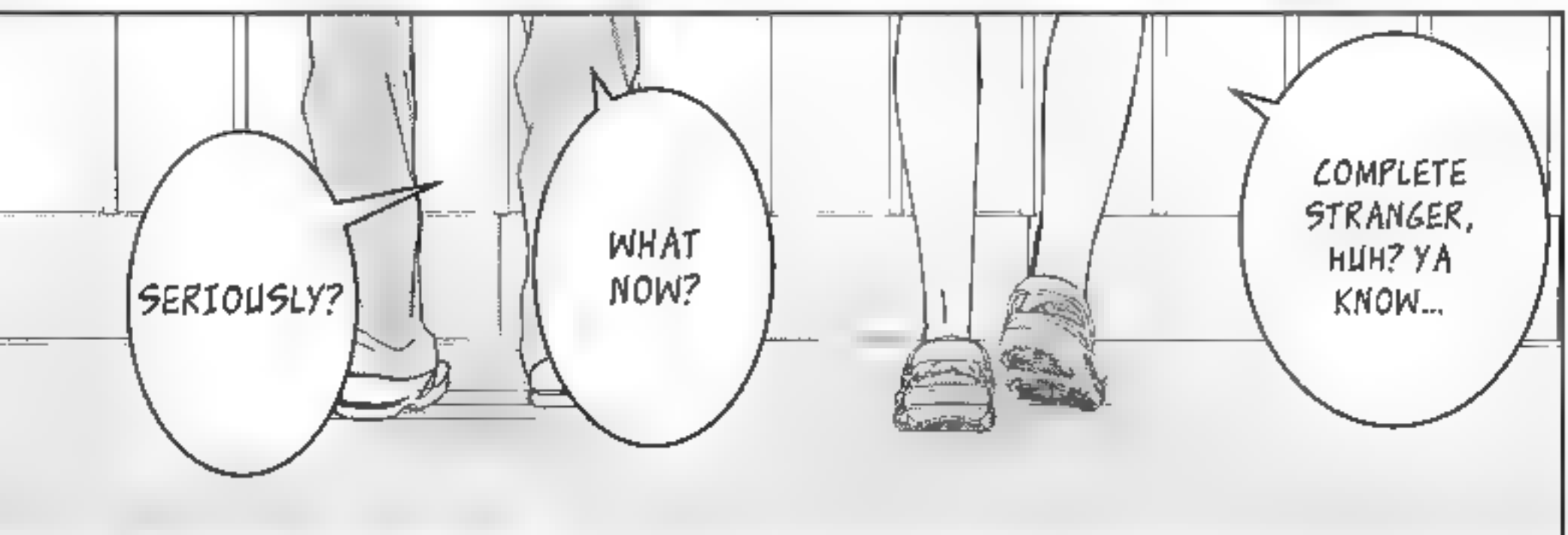
ALL RIGHT,
DON'T
PROVOKE ME.

SOMEONE WHO
TAKES CARE
OF A TEENAGE
GIRL WITHOUT
TRYING TO
GOBBLE HER UP.



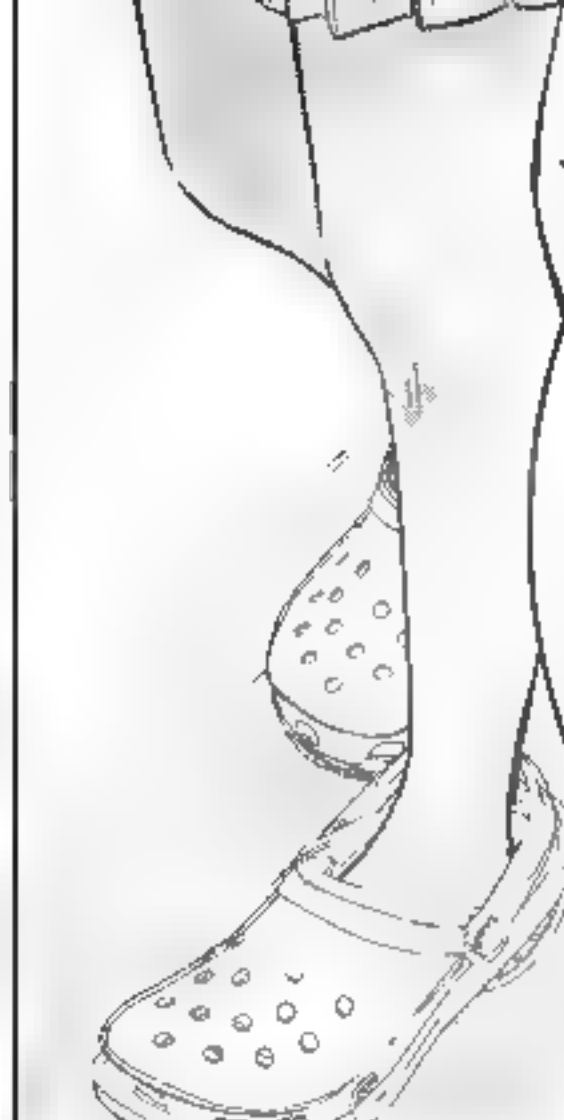
ABOUT
WHAT?

BUT WHAT
ARE YOU
GONNA DO?





BUT WHAT
DO YOU
WANT TO DO,
YOSHIDA?




YEAH, THAT
WOULD WORK IF
SAYU'S FAMILY
WAS ACTUALLY
ON HER SIDE.




THERE'S
NOTHING
THAT I CAN
DO!

DID YOU
HEAR WHAT I
JUST SAID?

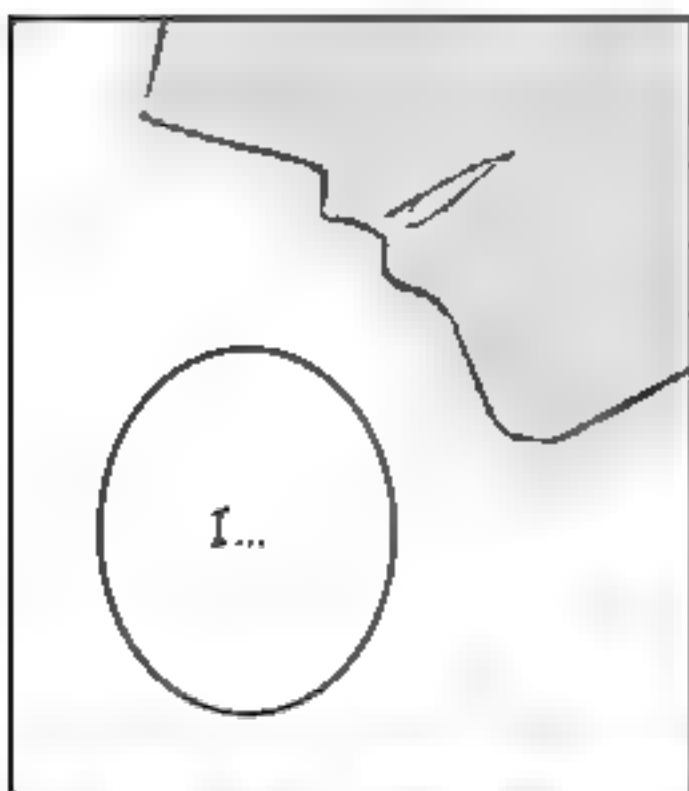


NOT WHAT YOU
SHOULD OR
SHOULDN'T DO.

YEAH, I HEARD
YOU, BUT
THAT'S NOT
WHAT I'M
ASKING YOU.

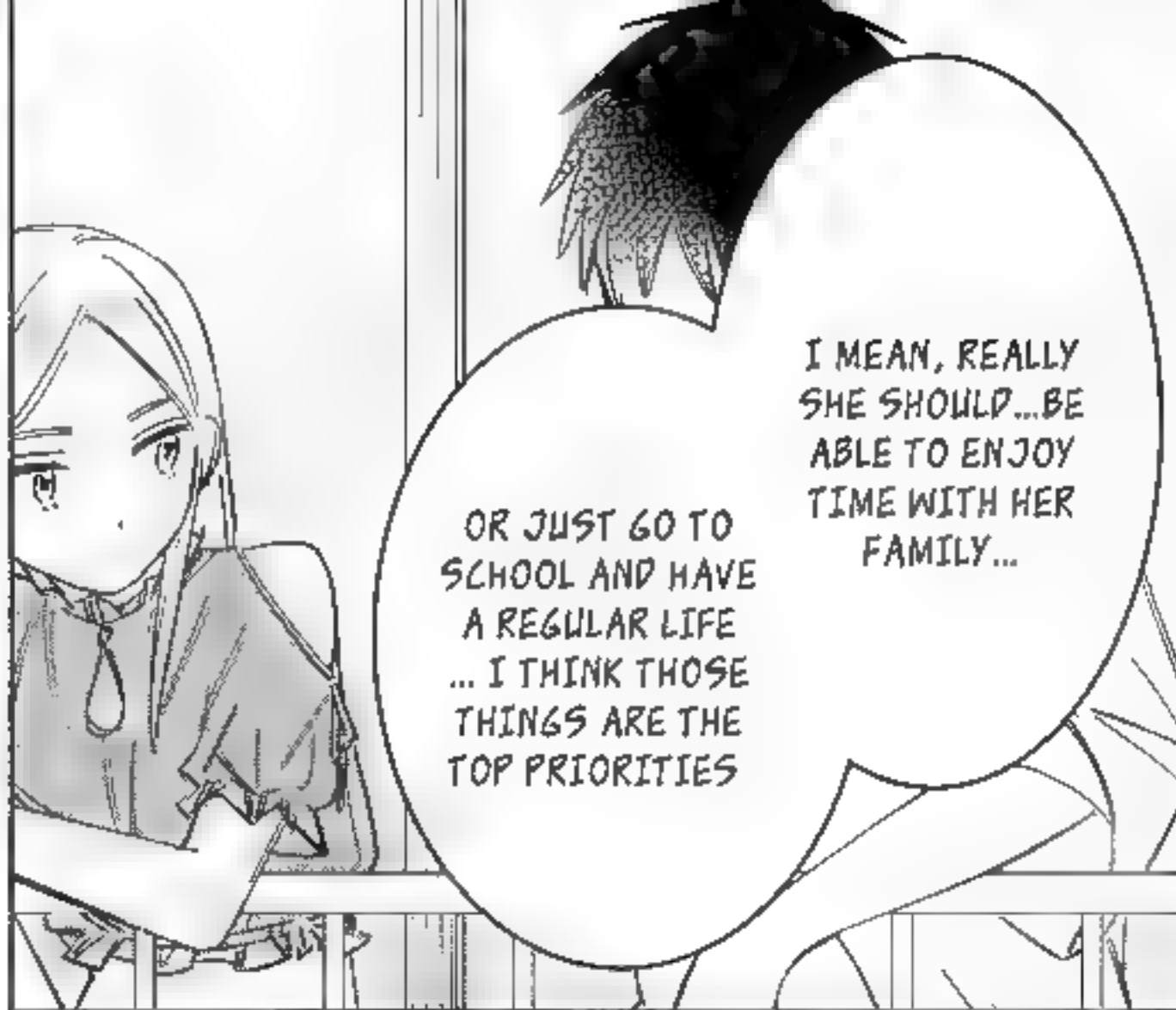


I'M ASKING
YOU WHAT
YOU WANT
TO DO.





BUT...



OR JUST GO TO
SCHOOL AND HAVE
A REGULAR LIFE
... I THINK THOSE
THINGS ARE THE
TOP PRIORITIES

I MEAN, REALLY
SHE SHOULD...BE
ABLE TO ENJOY
TIME WITH HER
FAMILY...



THAT'S
RIGHT




NEVER DOUBTED FOR
A SECOND THAT ONE OF
HER BEST QUALITIES IS
HER ABILITY TO LAUGH
AND SMILE JUST LIKE A
CHILD DOES.

I'VE ALWAYS
THOUGHT THAT
HER SMILE WAS
SO CHARMING



HAVEN'T I BEEN
THINKING THIS
EVER SINCE
TAKING SAYU IN?



I WANT HER
TO KEEP ON
SMILING.

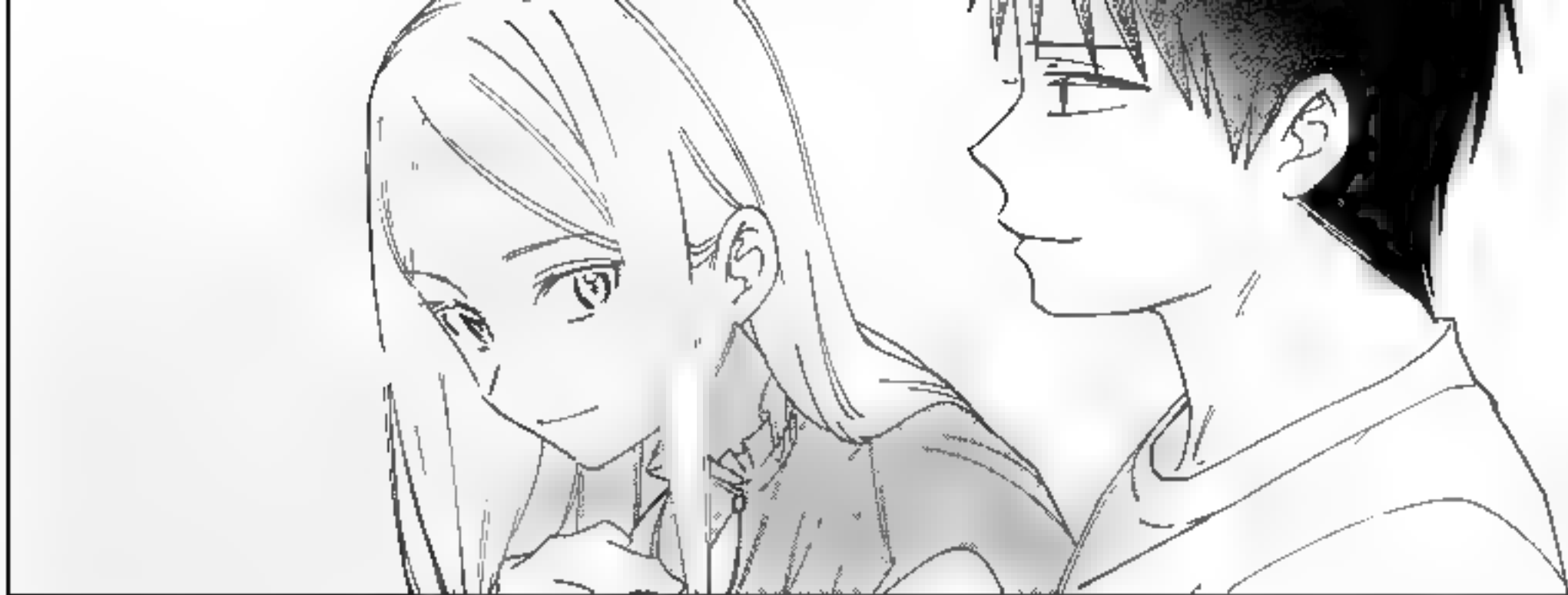
I JUST
WANT HER
TO BE ABLE
TO SMILE.

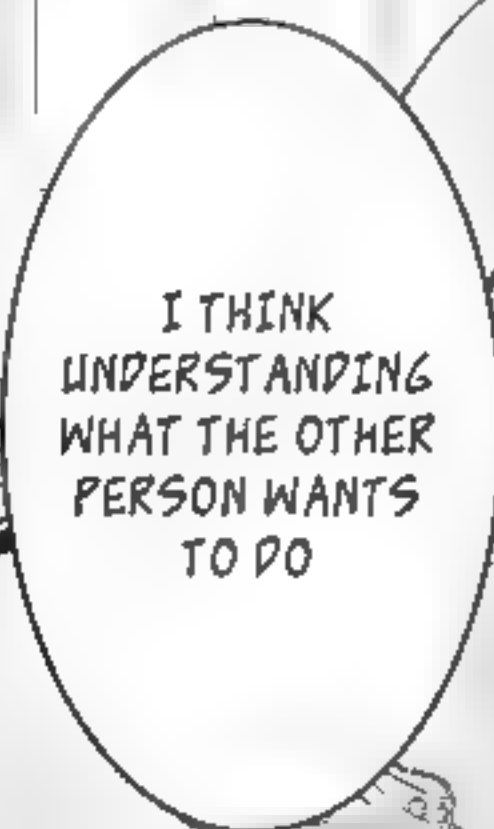
NO MATTER
WHERE SHE IS,
JUST LIKE SHE
DID WHEN SHE
WAS HERE...



THAT'S...
THAT'S ALL
I WANT
FOR HER!

SHAAA







FWIP



HAHA

YOU'RE
VERY...
MATURE

HOW TO PUT THIS
ASAMI, YOU'RE
NOT EXACTLY
AN AVERAGE
TEENAGER.



FLUSH



!!?

JUST PAY
ATTENTION TO
SAYU-CHAN.
GOT IT,
YOSHIDA-BRO?

WHAT? WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

WHAT I
LITERALLY
JUST
SAID!

SHOUT
SHOUT



KICK

YOWCH!

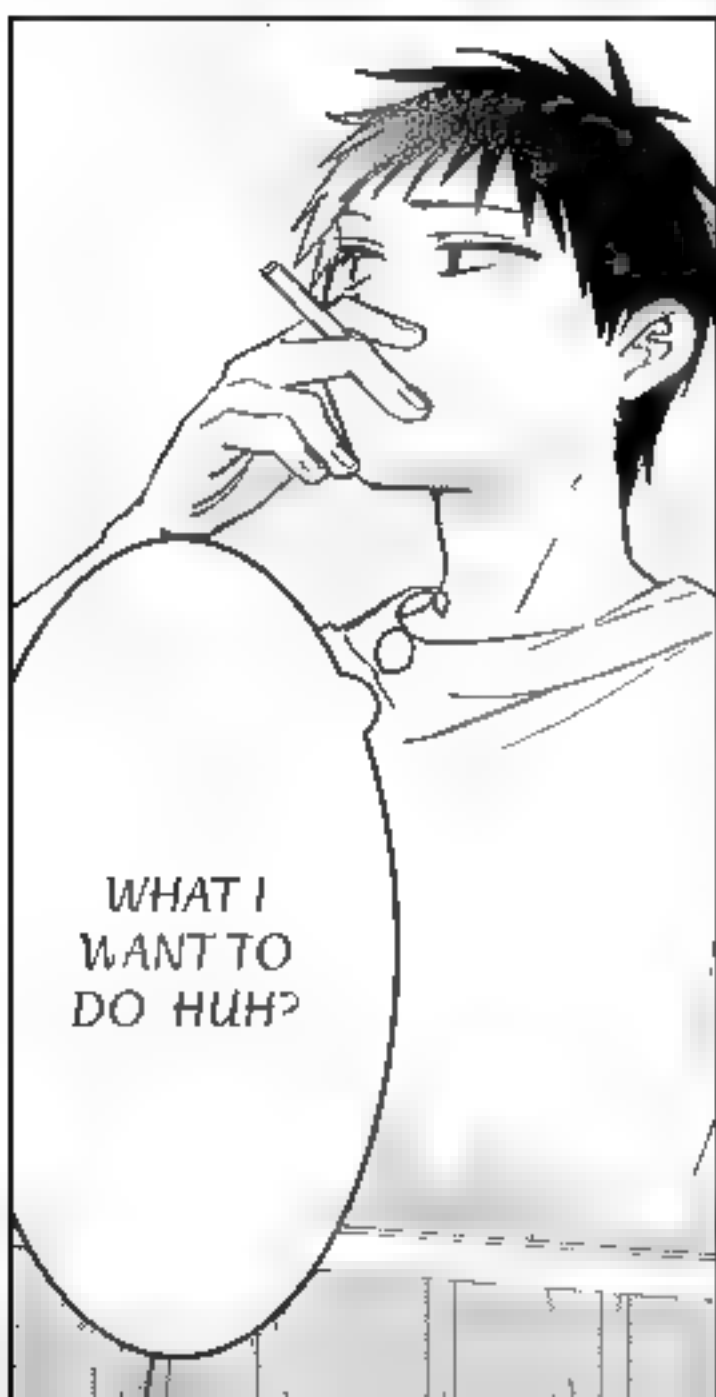
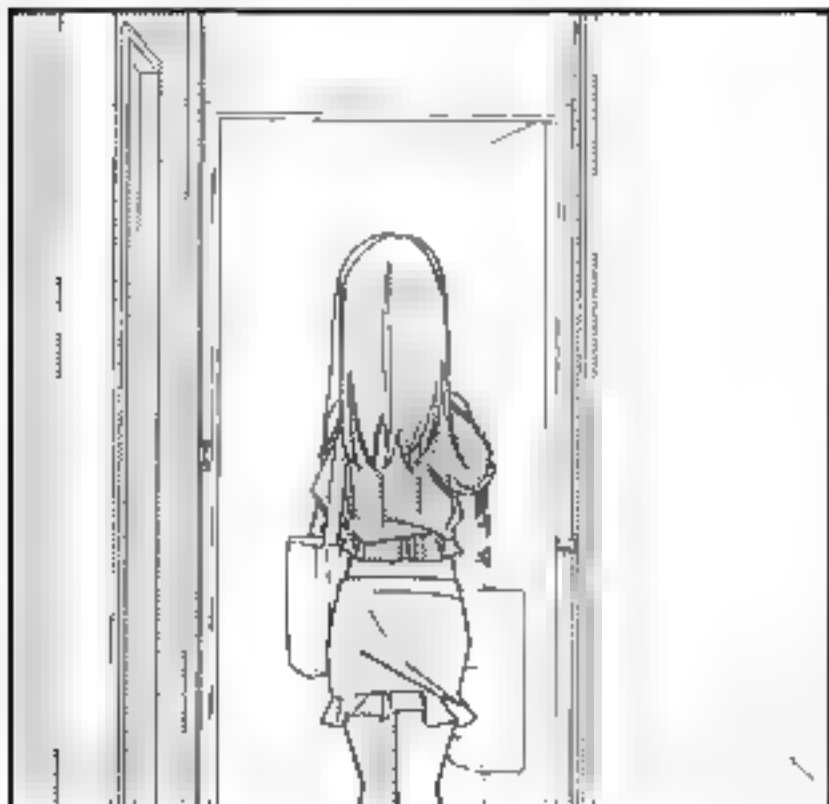


HEY,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

?

SHUT UP
NOTHING







WHAT SAYU WANTS
TO DO, AND WHAT
WANT TO DO. BOTH
SIDES.. THEY'RE
BOTH IMPORTANT



SIZZLE



ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT
REALIZED NEEDED
TO PUT EVERYTHING
HAD INTO FIGURING OUT
WHAT TO DO

CHAPTER 49 END

HIGEHIRO

After Being Rejected,
I Shaved and Took
in a High School Runaway

HEEEY LADY!



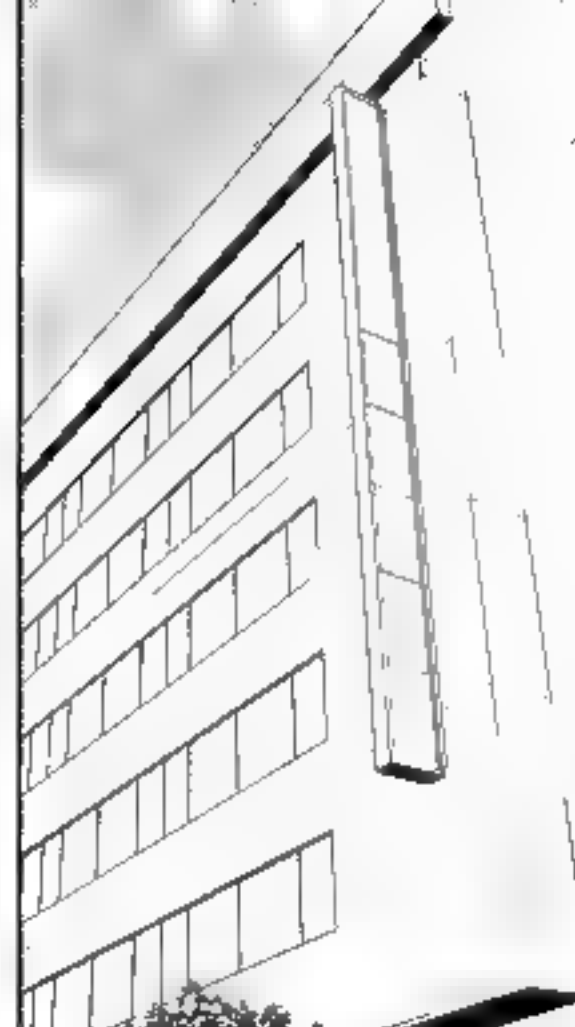
CAN YOU GRAB THE
BALL FOR US?

ok~



[CHAPTER 50]

"FAMILY" AND THE BATTING CAGES



GLANCE



WELL .. I
GUESS.



BUT THAT'S
NOT WHAT YOUR
FACE SAYS.



SIGH

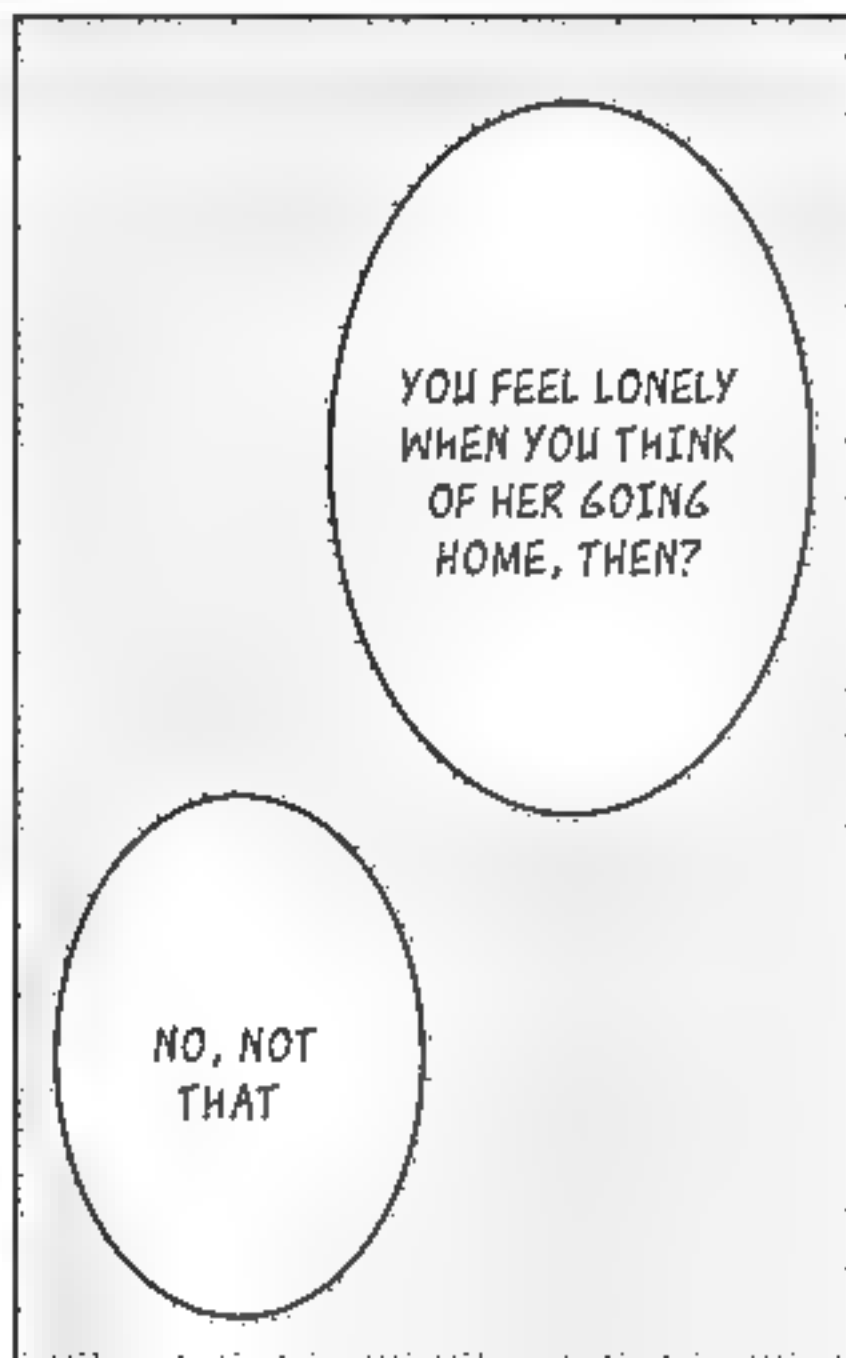
...I SUPPOSE YOU
CAN IMAGINE,
GIVEN SHE'S
BEEN RUNNING
AWAY FROM
HOME FOR SO
LONG, BUT

HER
PARENTS,
YOU
KNOW.



YOU FEEL LONELY
WHEN YOU THINK
OF HER GOING
HOME, THEN?

NO, NOT
THAT





I WOULD QUICKLY
AGREE WITH
HASHIMOTO'S
SUGGESTION TO GET
THINGS BACK TO
NORMAL.

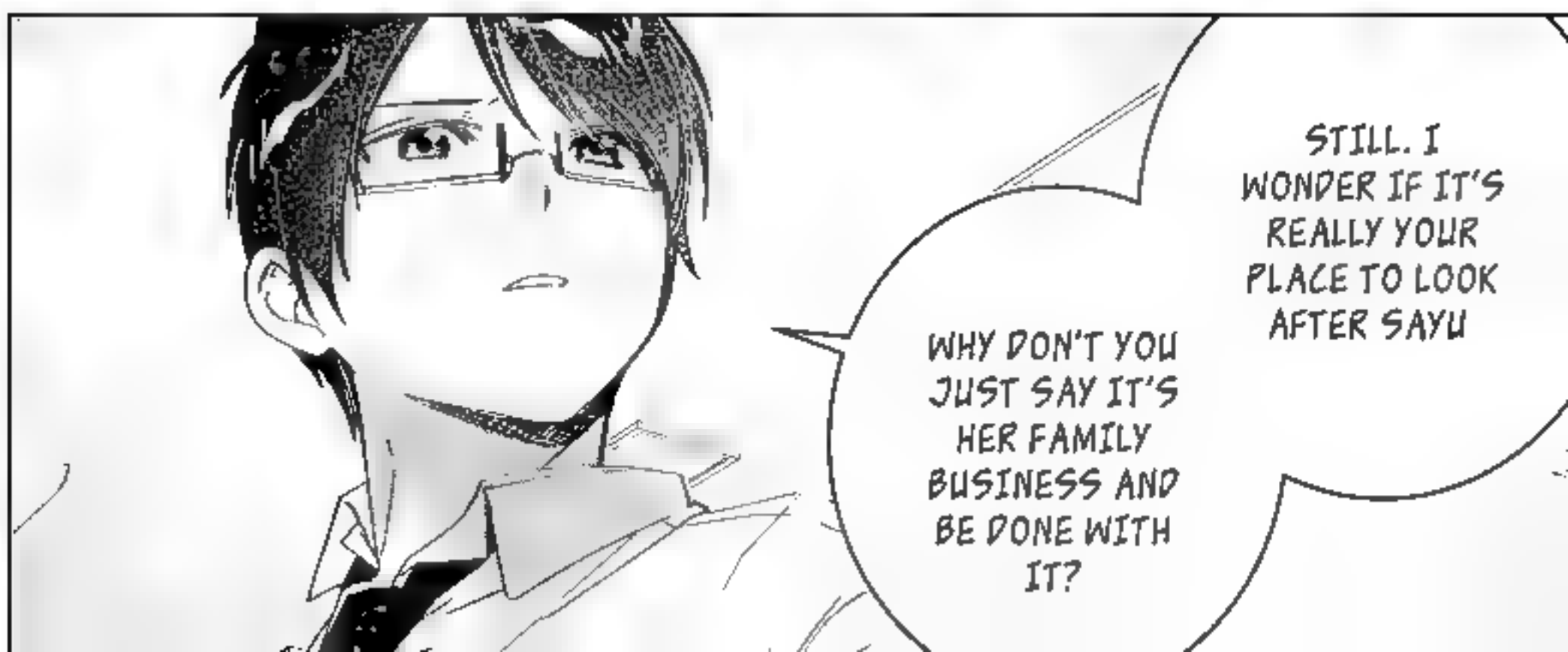
IF SAYU HAD A
NORMAL FAMILY
ENVIRONMENT
AROUND HER



OH, I
SEE.




BUT FROM
EVERYTHING SAYU'S
TOLD ME, HER FAMILY
REALLY ISN'T A GOOD
PLACE FOR HER




WHY DON'T YOU
JUST SAY IT'S
HER FAMILY
BUSINESS AND
BE DONE WITH
IT?


STILL. I
WONDER IF IT'S
REALLY YOUR
PLACE TO LOOK
AFTER SAYU



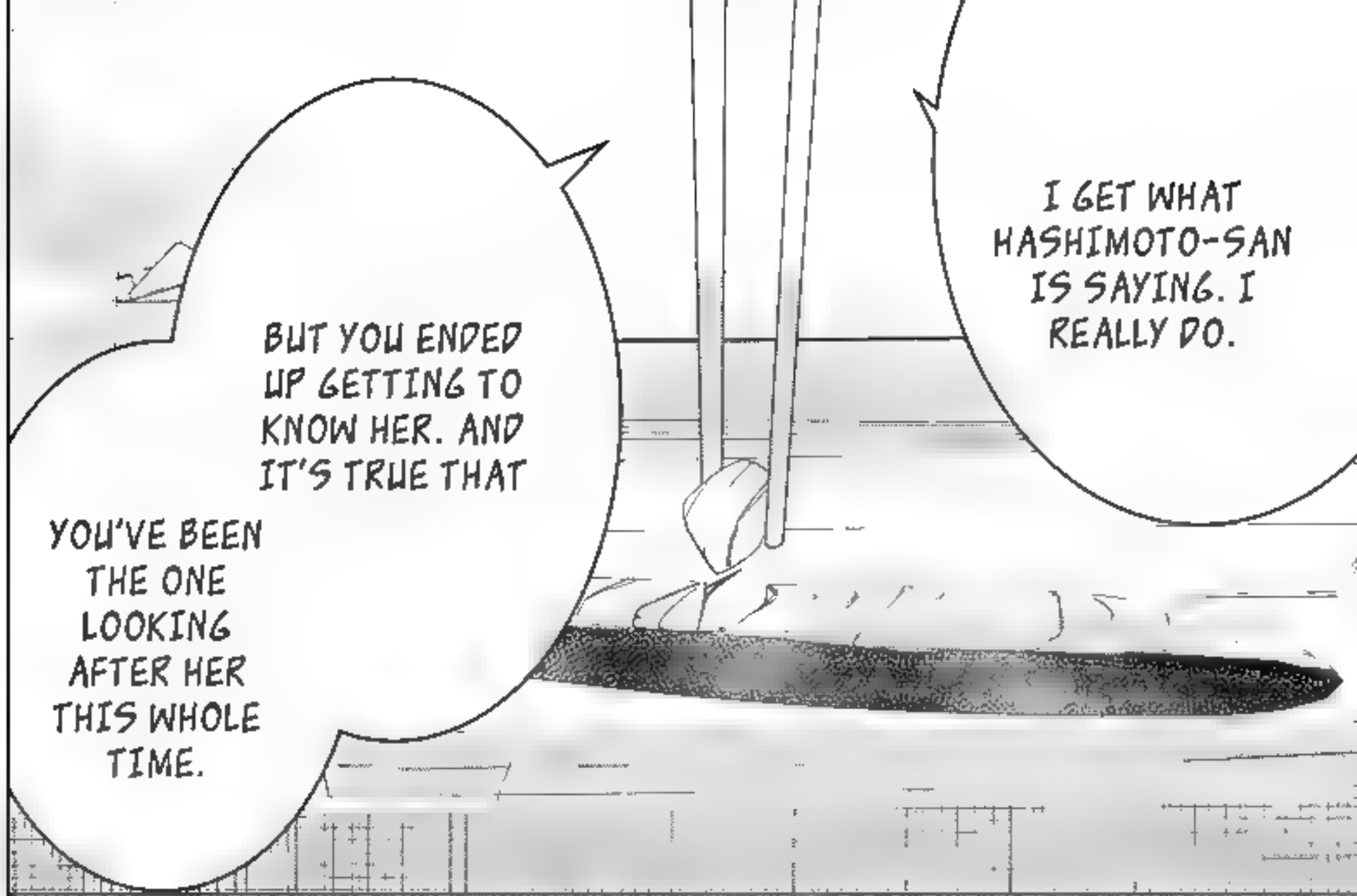
IT'S THE RIGHT
TIME. THERE
ARE LIMITS
TO WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO HELP
A COMPLETE
STRANGER.



IT... YEAH, IT
IS I AGREE
WITH YOU.



SO
YOSHIDA-SENPAI,
WHAT DO YOU
WANT TO DO
ABOUT IT?





I...



THAT'S WHY
I'M ASKING.
WHAT DO YOU
WANT TO DO?



OH... MAKES
SENSE.

BEFORE
SAYU-CHAN
HAS TO GO.

HUH?

SO WE
HAVE A
LITTLE
LESS THAN
A WEEK.



LET ME
TAKE HER
ON A DATE.

THEN DO
YOU MIND IF
I BORROW
SAYU-CHAN
TONIGHT?



I'VE GOT THINGS
I WANT TO TALK
TO HER ABOUT,
WOMAN TO
WOMAN.



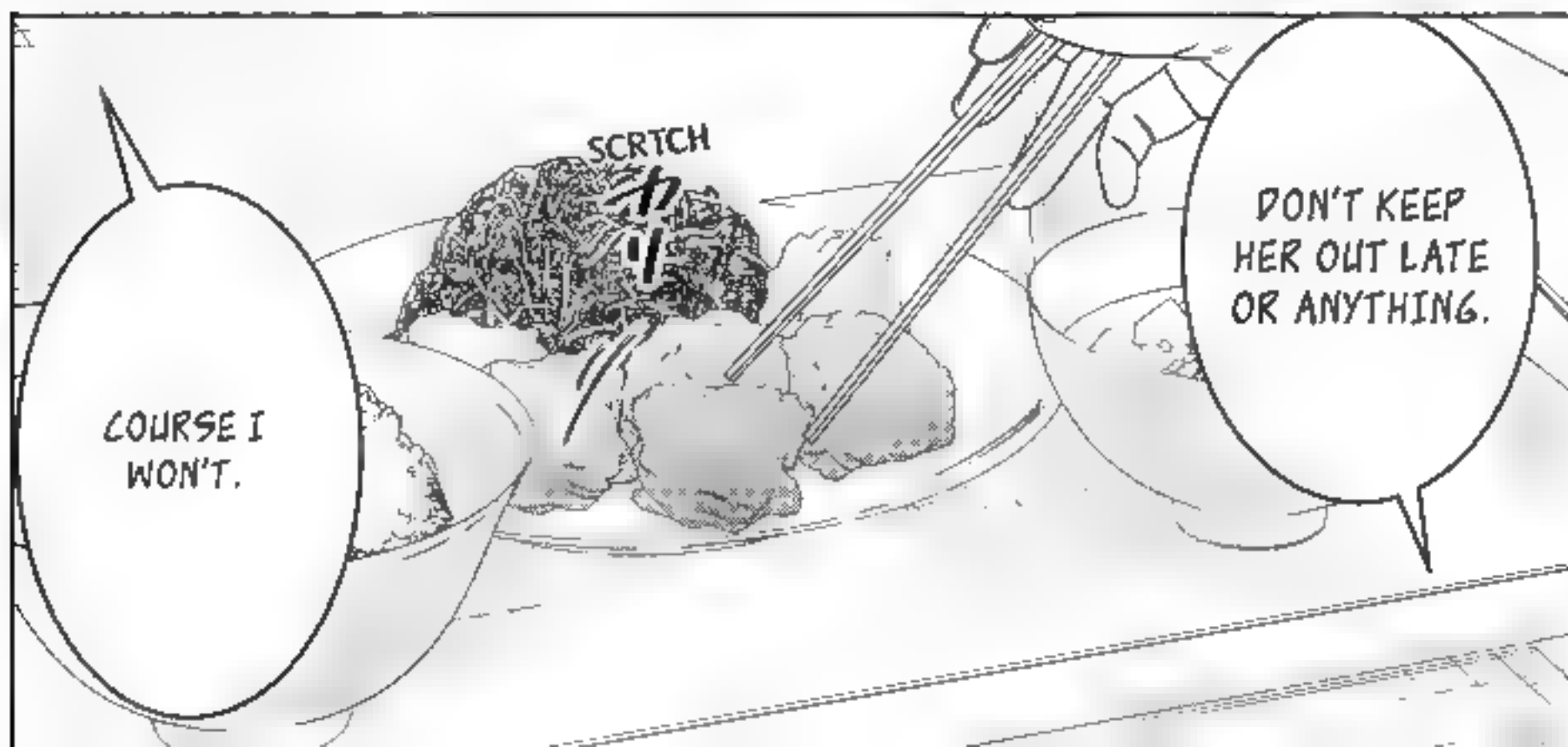
WHAT? WELL,
OKAY... FINE
WITH ME.

I GUESS, I
SHOULDN'T BE THE
ONE DECIDING IN
THE FIRST PLACE.
WHAT ARE YOU
THINKING ALL OF
THE SUDDEN?



THEN IT'S A DATE.
I'LL GO HOME FIRST
AFTER WORK, AND
THEN I'LL COME TO
YOUR PLACE TO PICK
SAYU UP.

WELL, IF IT'S
OKAY WITH
SAYU, IT'S
FINE WITH ME.



COURSE I
WON'T.

DON'T KEEP
HER OUT LATE
OR ANYTHING.



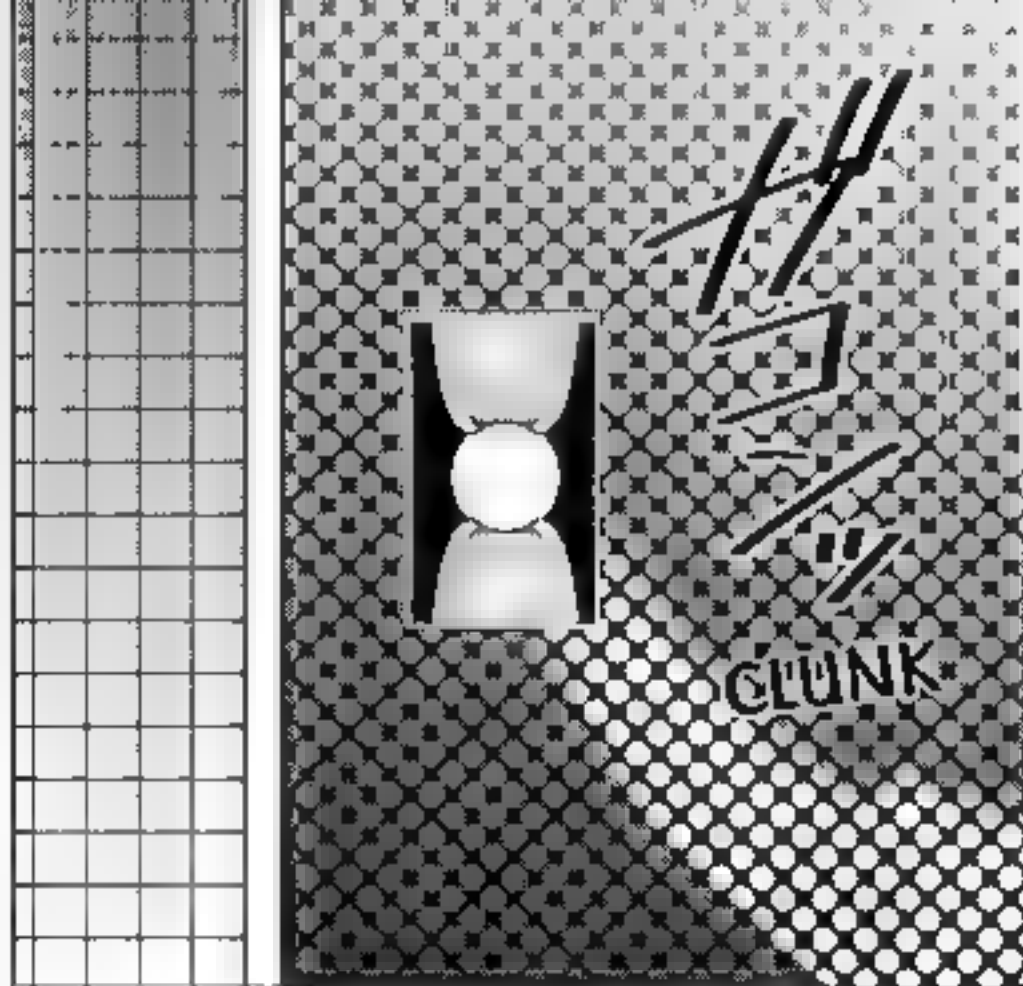
WHAT DO YOU KNOW.
SHE STOPPED HER
HABIT OF TALKING
W. TH HER MOUTH
FULL



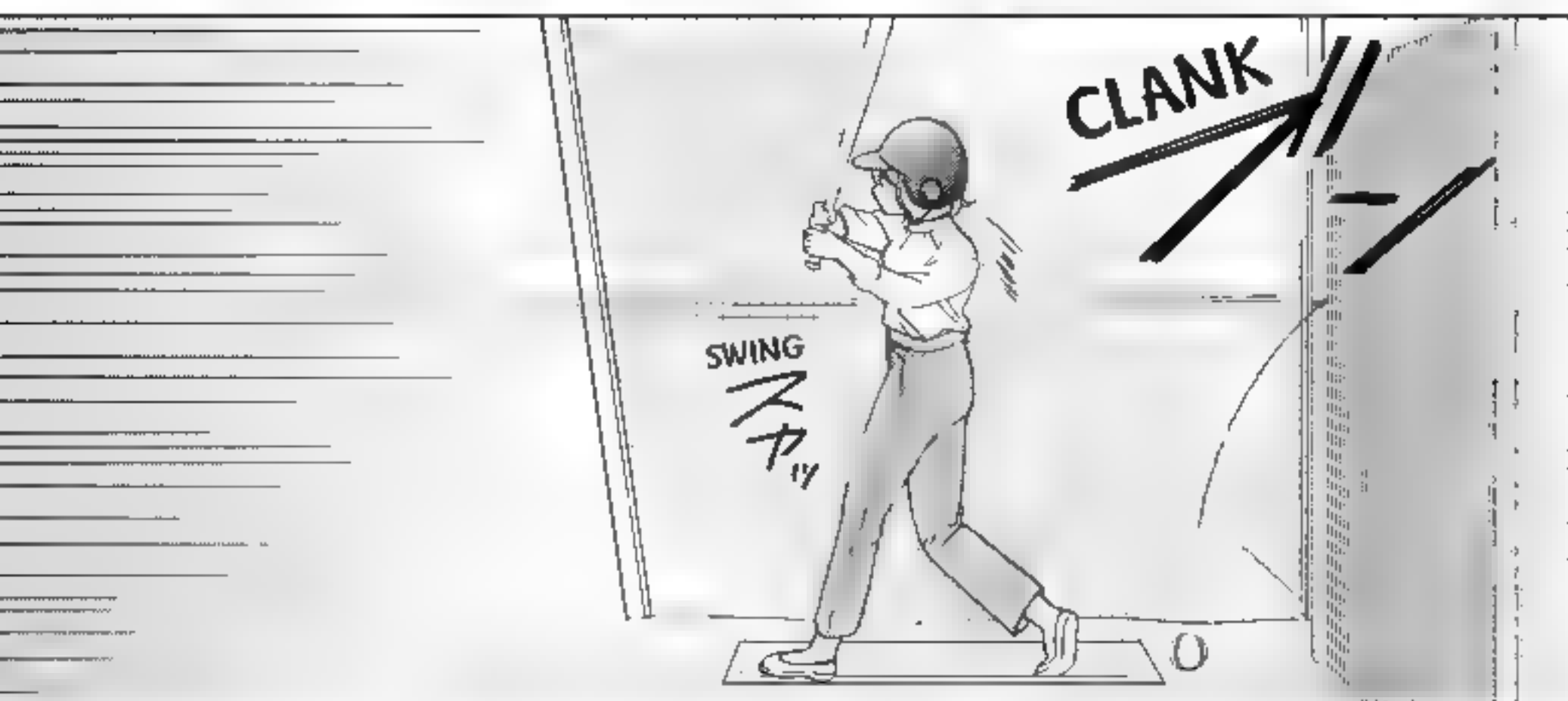
HERE WE GO!
IT'S THE
FIRST PITCH
OF THE DAY!



WUP



CLUNK



CLANK

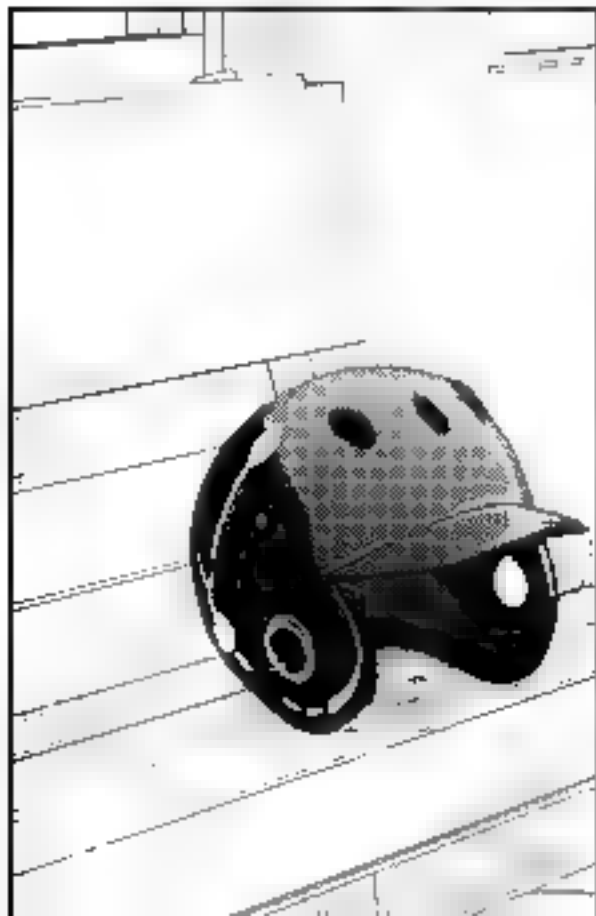
SWING

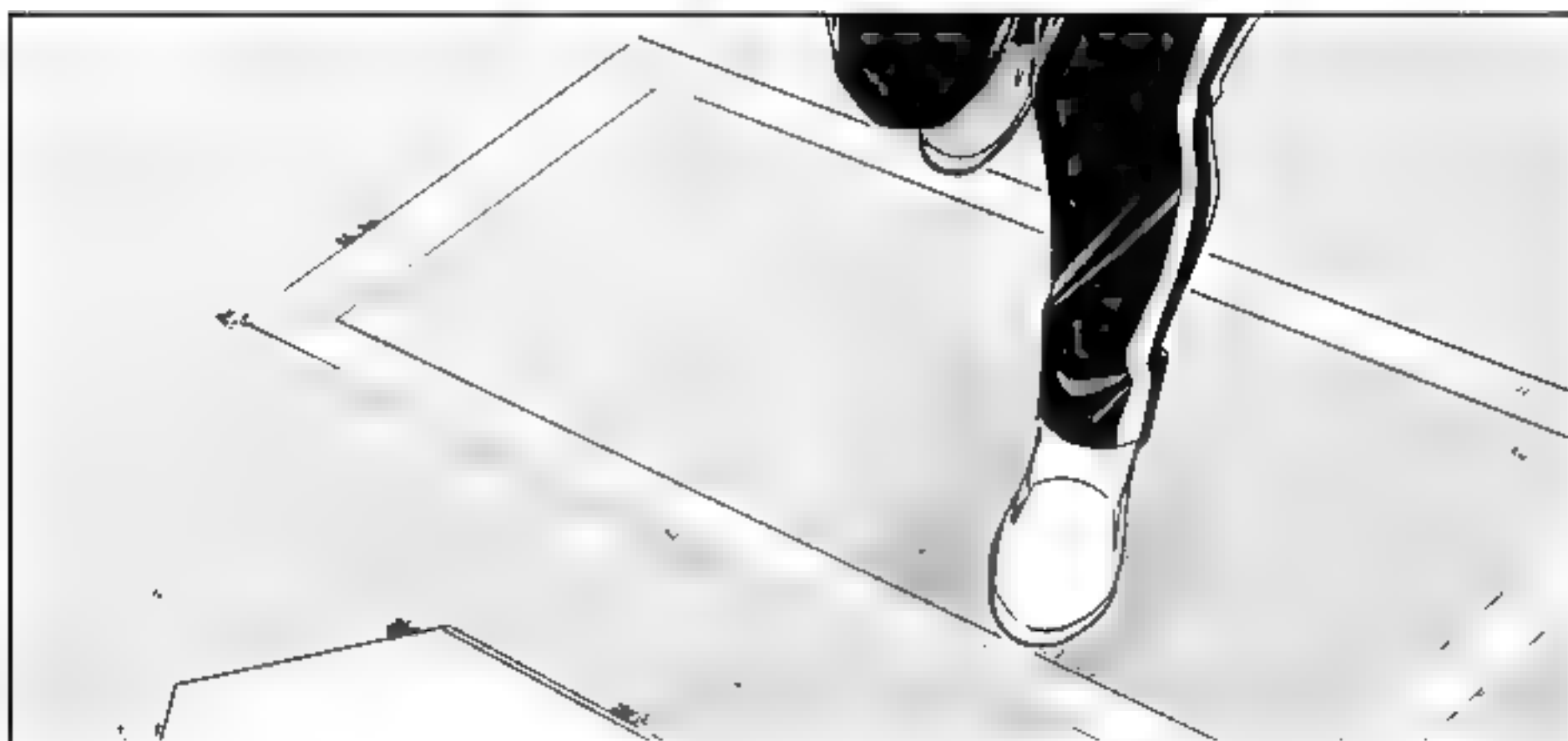


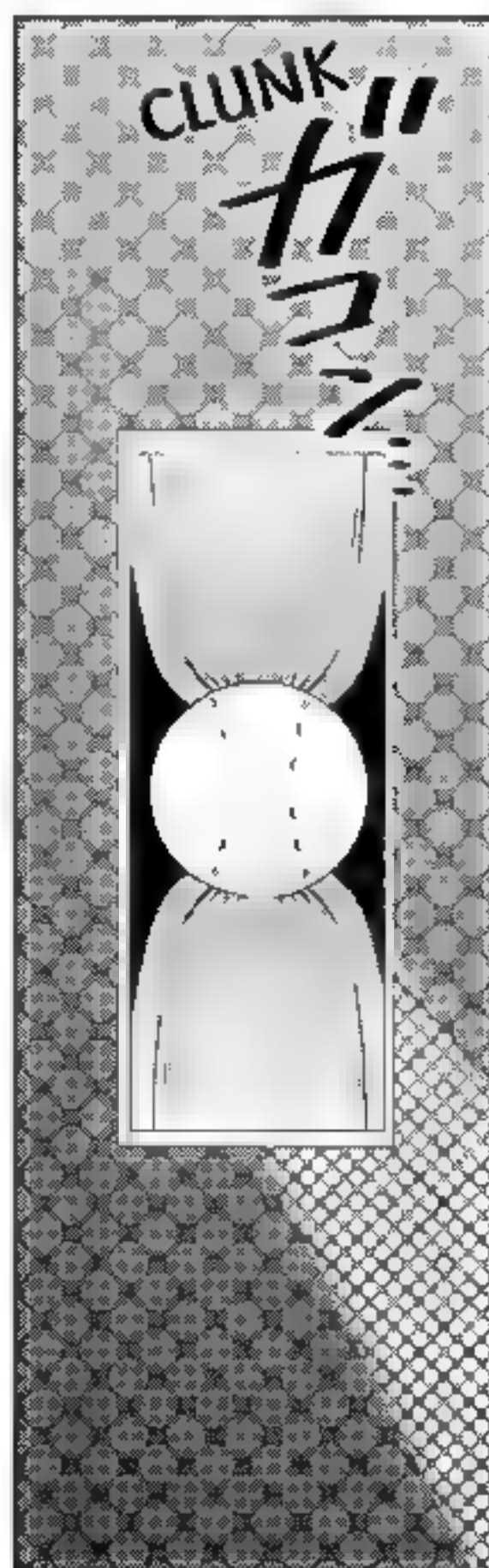
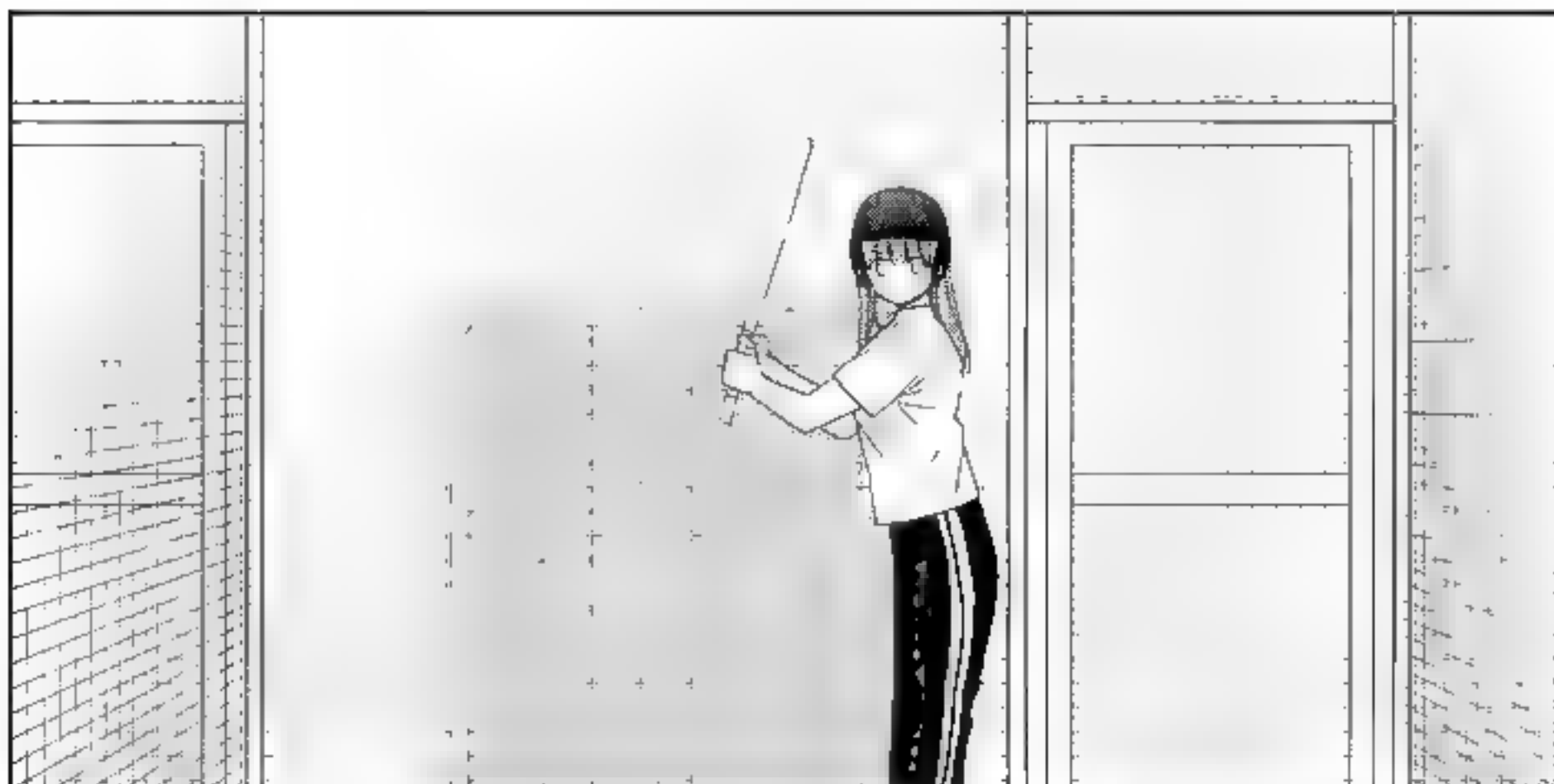
CLAK

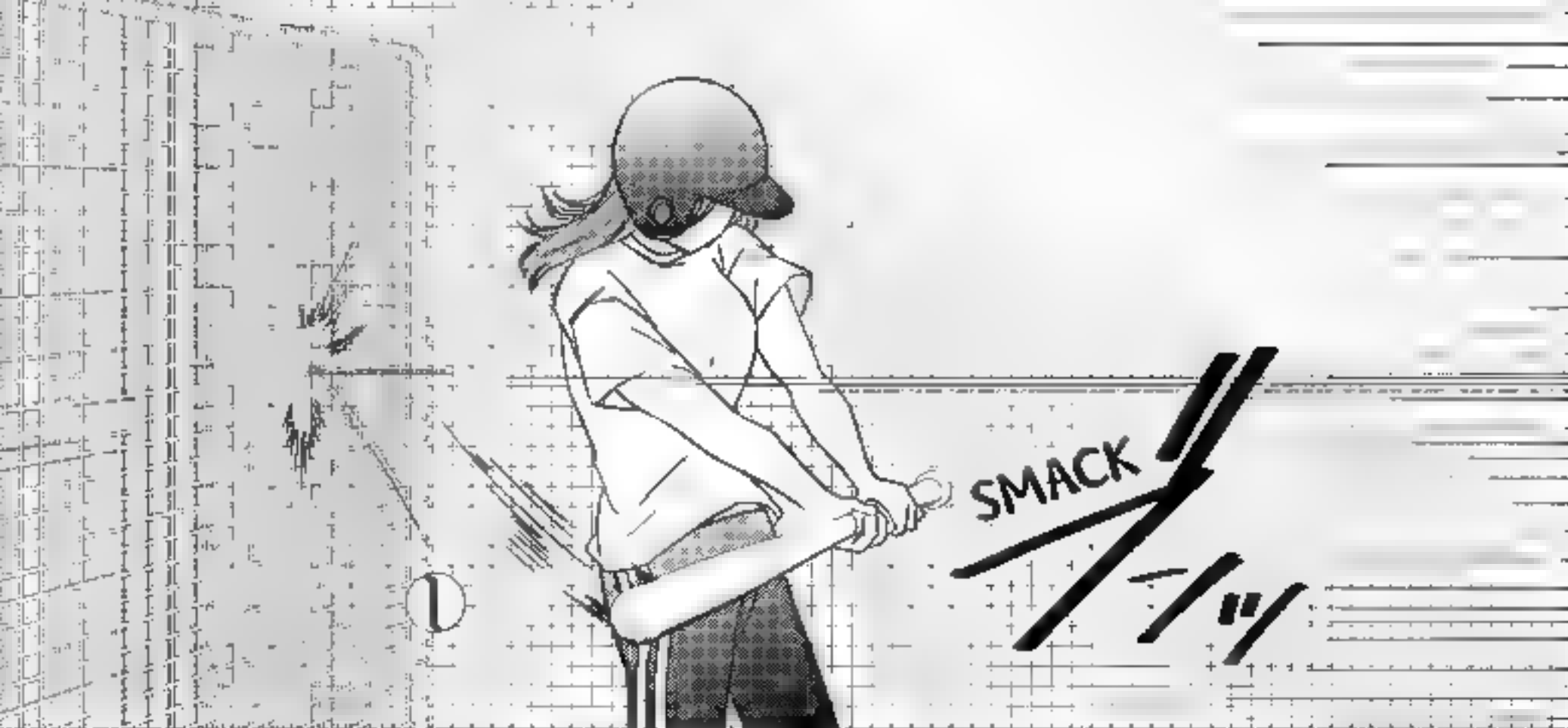
DANG! WELL,
I GUESS IT'S
BEEN A WHILE.

AHAHA



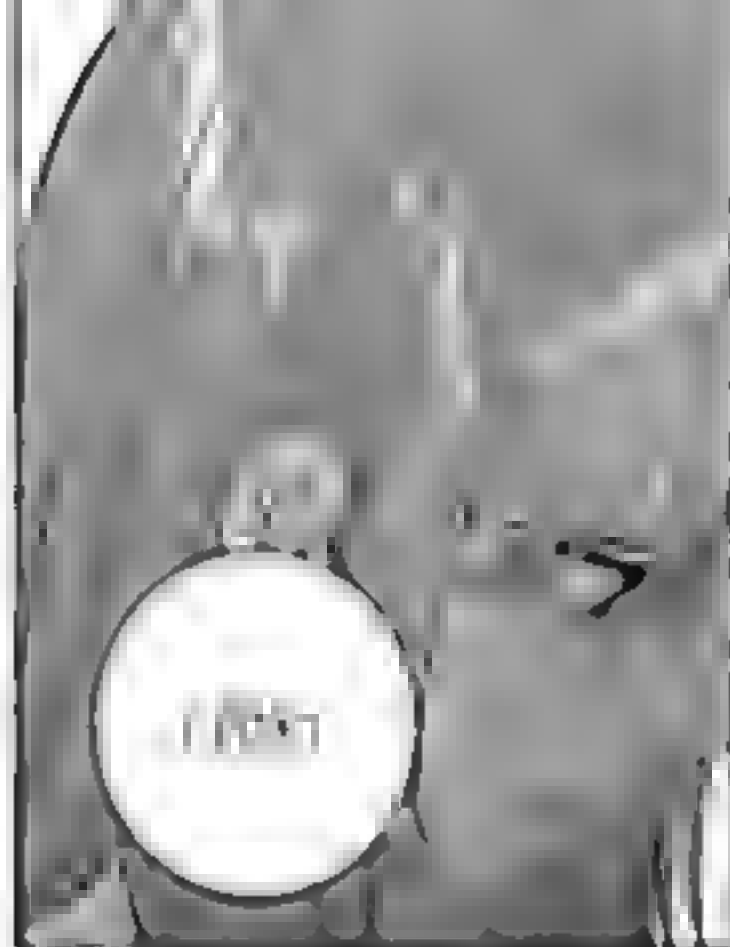












WHEN I
TALKED
ABOUT MY
FAMILY TO
YUZUHA-SAN

SHE LISTENED
CLOSELY AND
GAVE THE
EXACT RIGHT
RESPONSES

SHE D.DN'T
OVERREACT IN
HORROR OR JUST
LET ME TALK
EITHER.

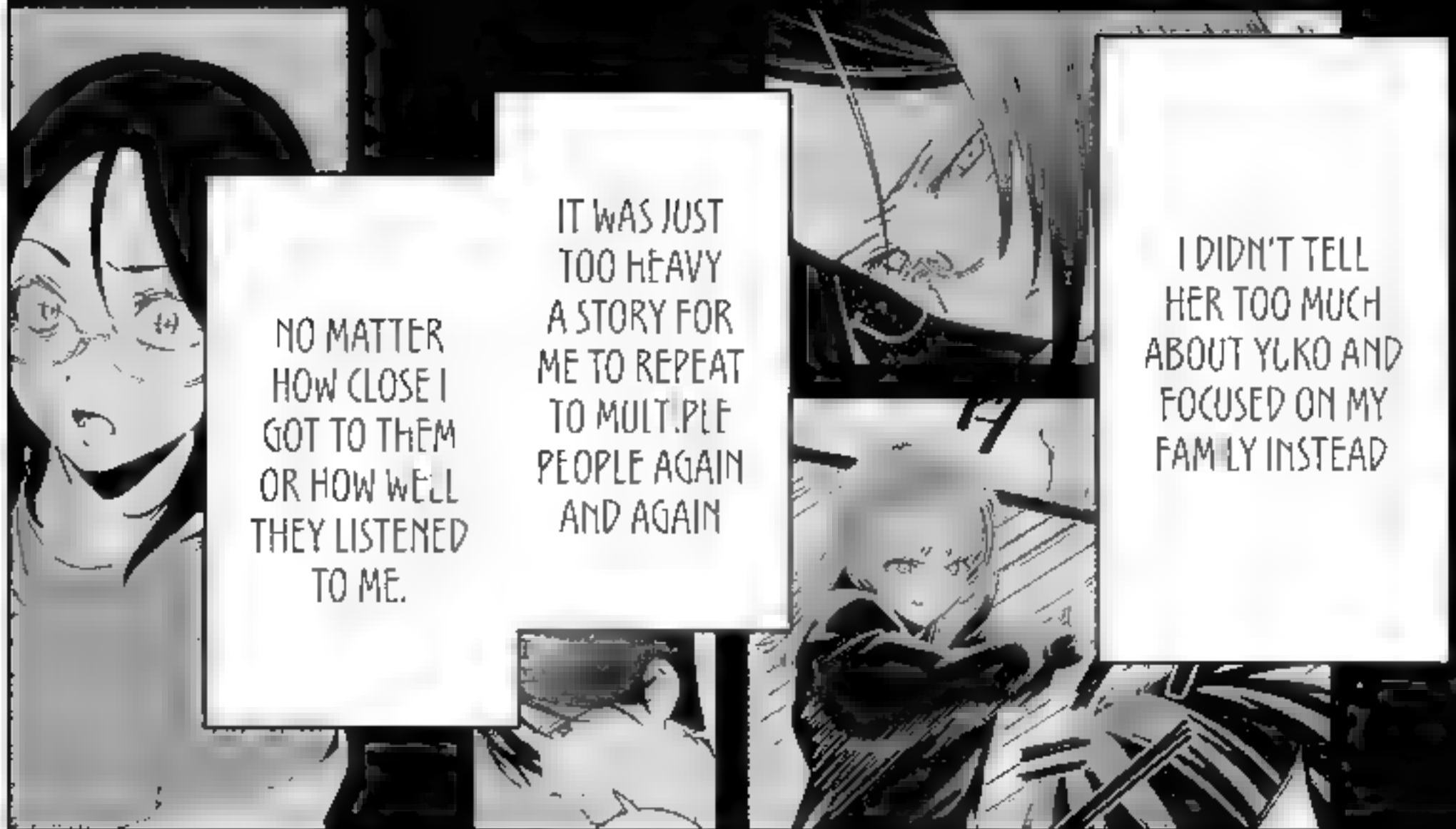
JUST LIKE SHE
DID THE FIRST
TIME I MET HER

TIME
LIMIT

4

SEATS FOR LEFT/
RIGHT
HANDED HITTERS





NO MATTER
HOW CLOSE I
GOT TO THEM
OR HOW WELL
THEY LISTENED
TO ME.

IT WAS JUST
TOO HEAVY
A STORY FOR
ME TO REPEAT
TO MULTIPLE
PEOPLE AGAIN
AND AGAIN

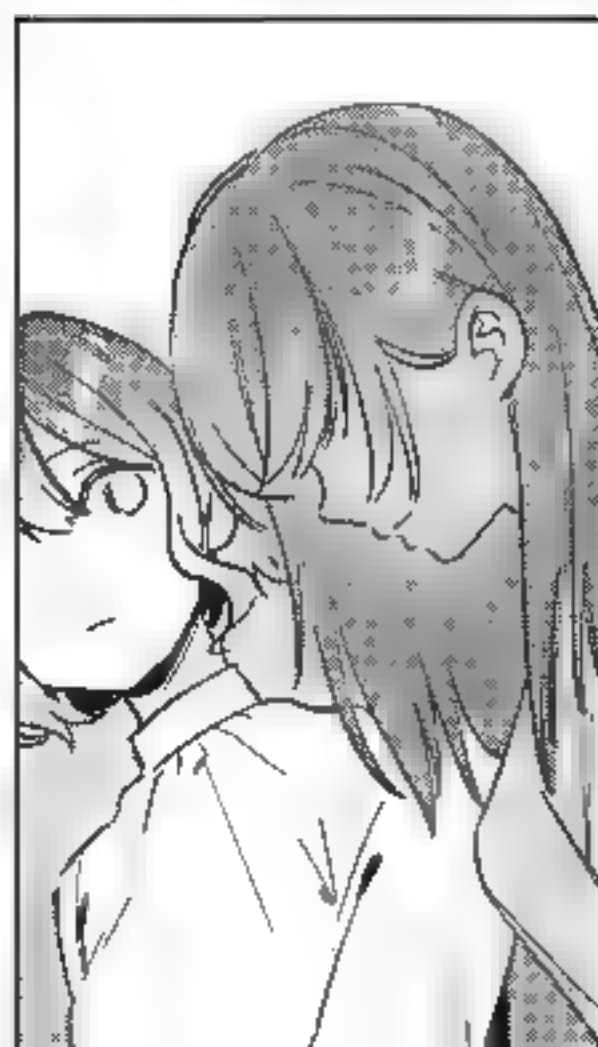
I DIDN'T TELL
HER TOO MUCH
ABOUT YUKO AND
FOCUSED ON MY
FAMILY INSTEAD

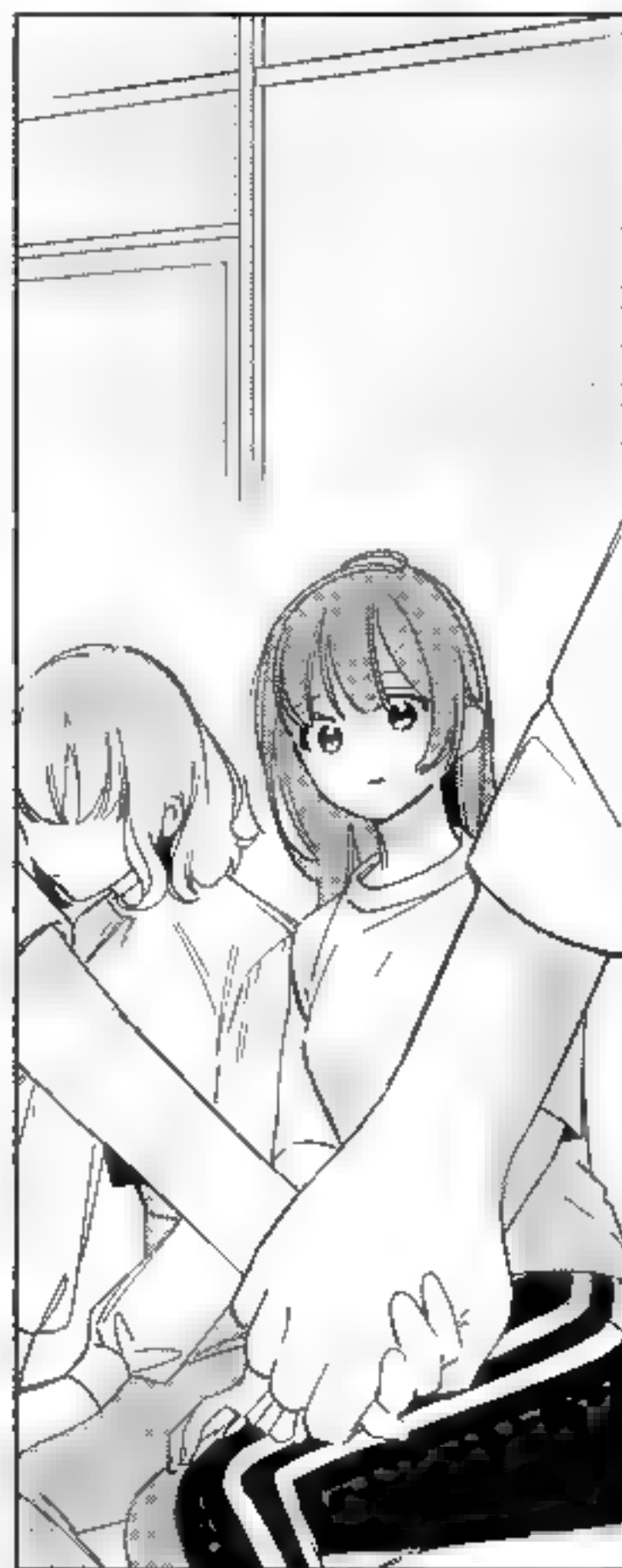
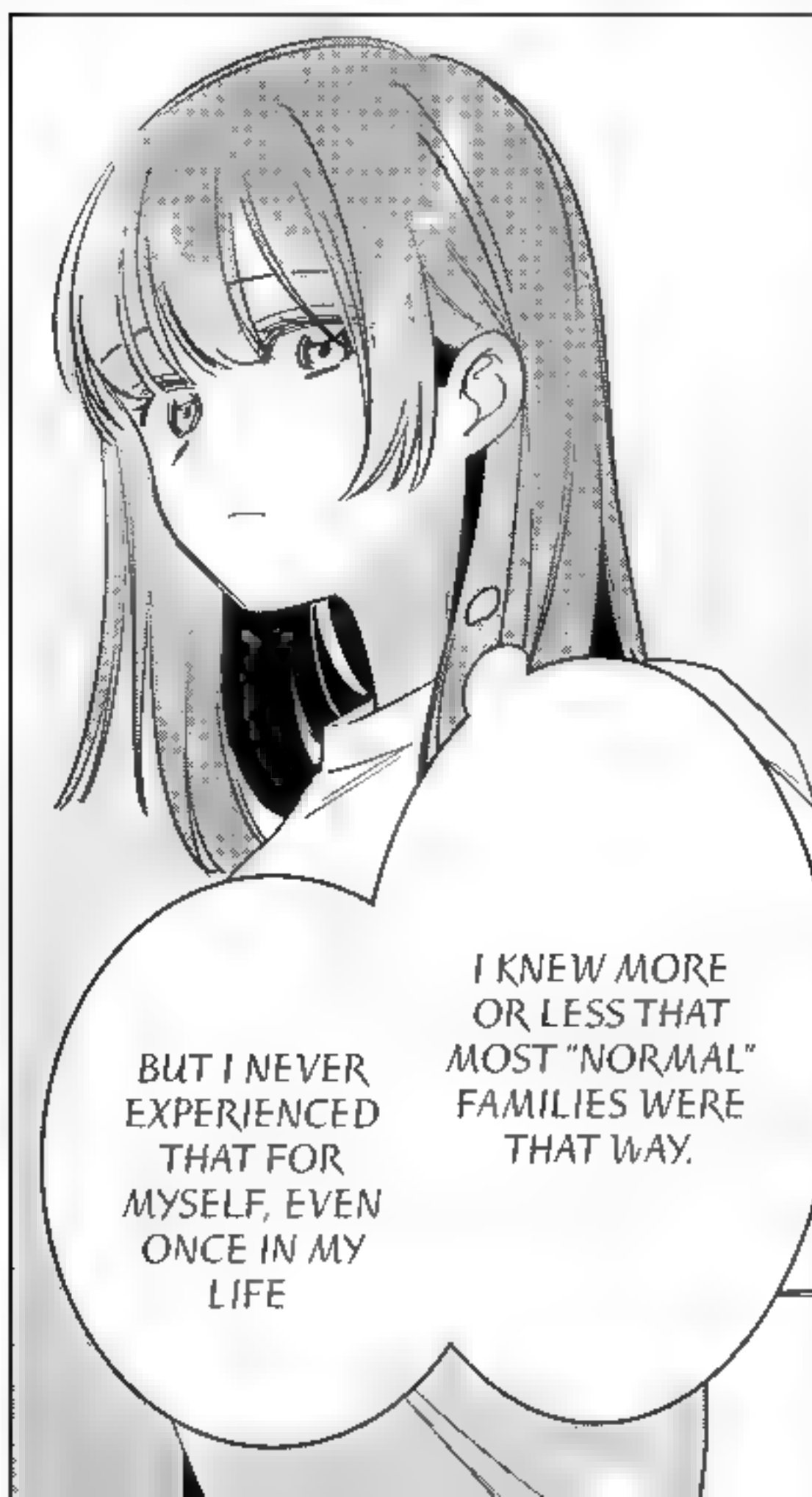


WHEN I GOT TO THE
PART ABOUT MY MOM,
YUZUHA-SAN LOOKED AT
ME WITH A COMPLICATED
EXPRESSION, LIKE SHE
COULDN'T PUT HER
REACTION INTO WORDS



...YOU KNOW,
ABOUT
FAMILY.

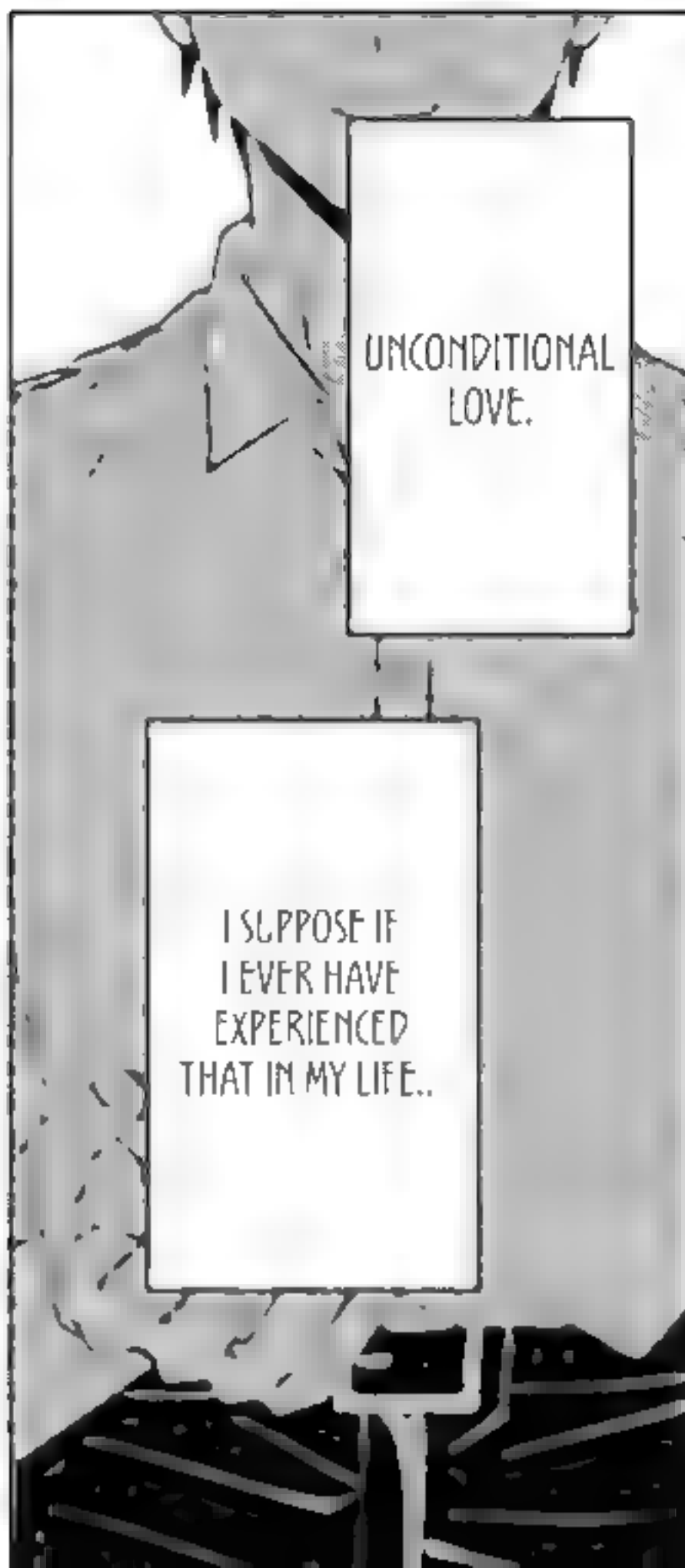






AND SSA TREATS ME
WELL, BUT BECAUSE
HE PITIES ME

IT WAS ALWAYS
OBVIOUS THAT
MOM RESENTED
ME



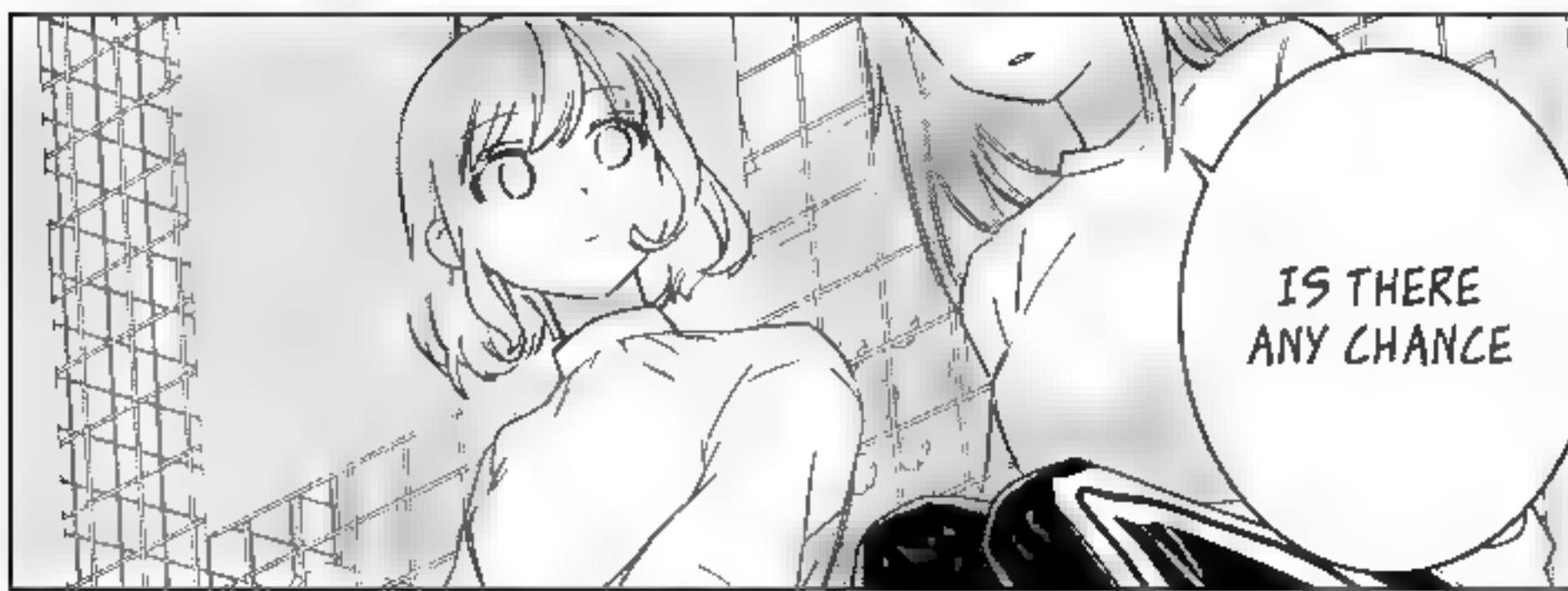
UNCONDITIONAL
LOVE.

I SUPPOSE IF
I EVER HAVE
EXPERIENCED
THAT IN MY LIFE..





!!
...
GASP

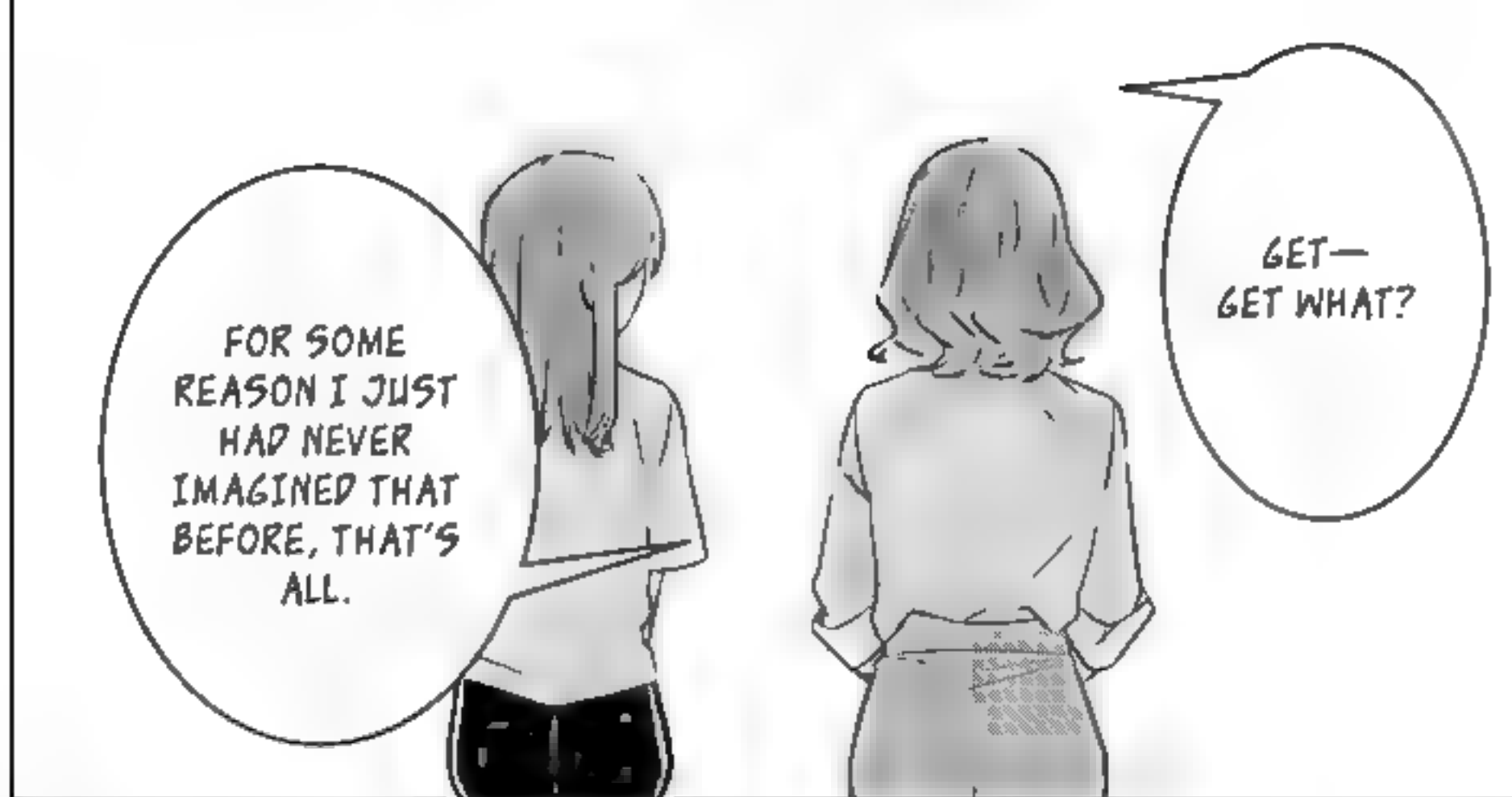


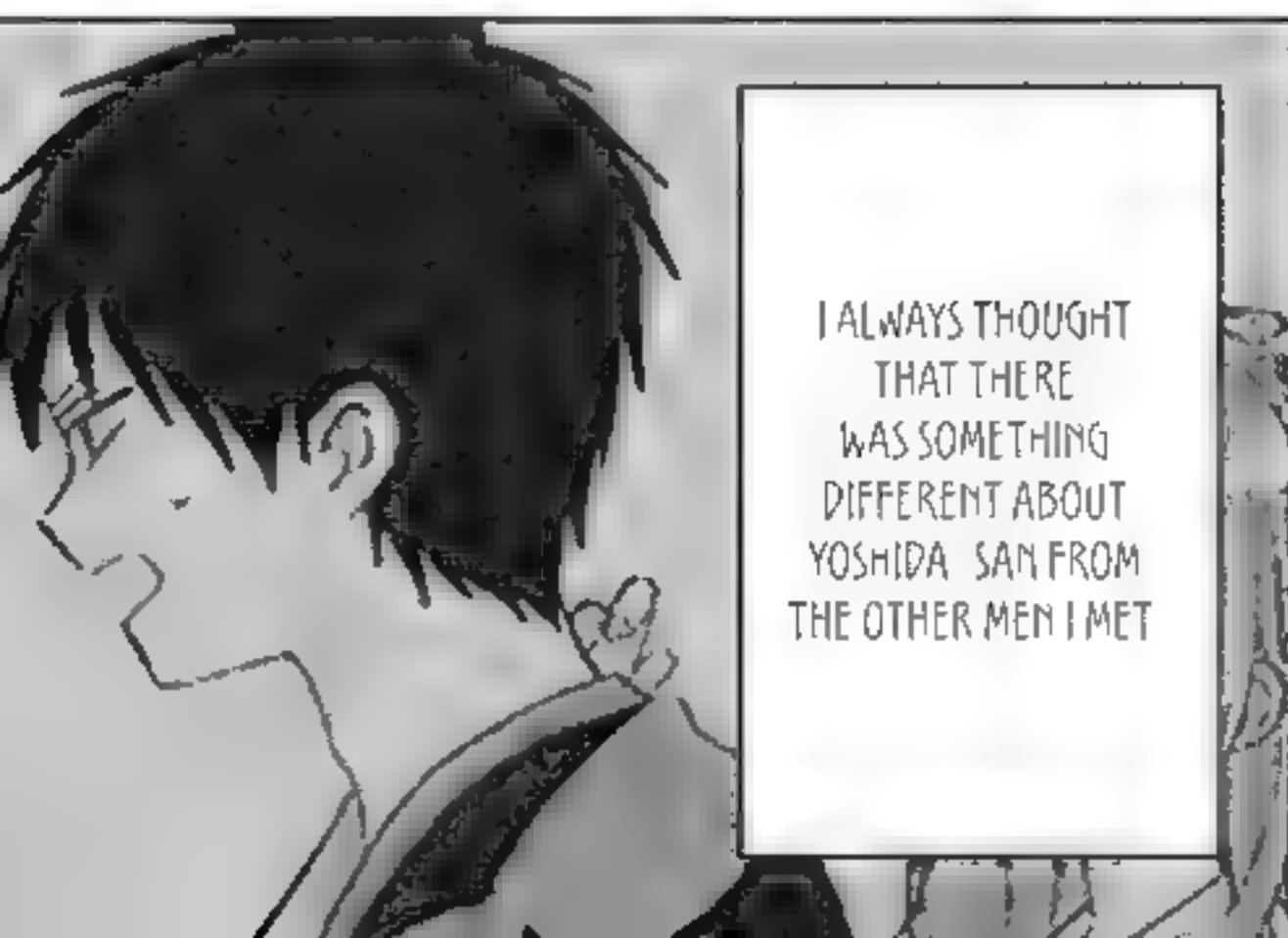
IS THERE
ANY CHANCE



YOSHIDA-SAN
AND I KIND
OF SEEM LIKE
FATHER AND
DAUGHTER?









I WENT ON WITHOUT
HAVING ANY IDEA
OF WHERE THAT
FAMILIARITY CAME
FROM.

, FELT THIS
PECULIAR SENSE
OF FAMILIARITY
AROUND H.M,
EVEN FROM THE
BEGINNING



THAT MAKES SENSE
YOSHIDA-SAN HAS
BEEN TREATING
ME LIKE FAMILY
THAT'S WHY...



BUT WHEN I HEARD
WHAT YUZUHA-SAN
SAID ABOUT FAMILY
JUST NOW, IT WAS
LIKE THE GATES
SUDDENLY OPENED

NOW I CAN
ACTUALLY SEE THE
RELATIONSHIP THAT
THE TWO OF US
BUILT TOGETHER.



ONCE I LEFT
HOME, I WAS
ALWAYS A
WOMAN.

OR RATHER...
I CONVINCED
MYSELF THAT'S WHAT
I NEEDED TO BE AND
FORCED IT

AND I ACTED THE
TEENAGE GIRL,
SINCE THAT'S
WHAT THE WORLD
WANTED FROM ME.




BUT
YOSHIDA-SAN
JUST SAW ME AS
A KID


IT WAS BIZARRE,
BUT I FELT SO
RELIEVED...



THAT'S
WHY...



THAT'S WHY
I FELT SO...
SO WARM...



ALL ALONG, I HAD
JUST WANTED
UNCONDITIONAL
LOVE.



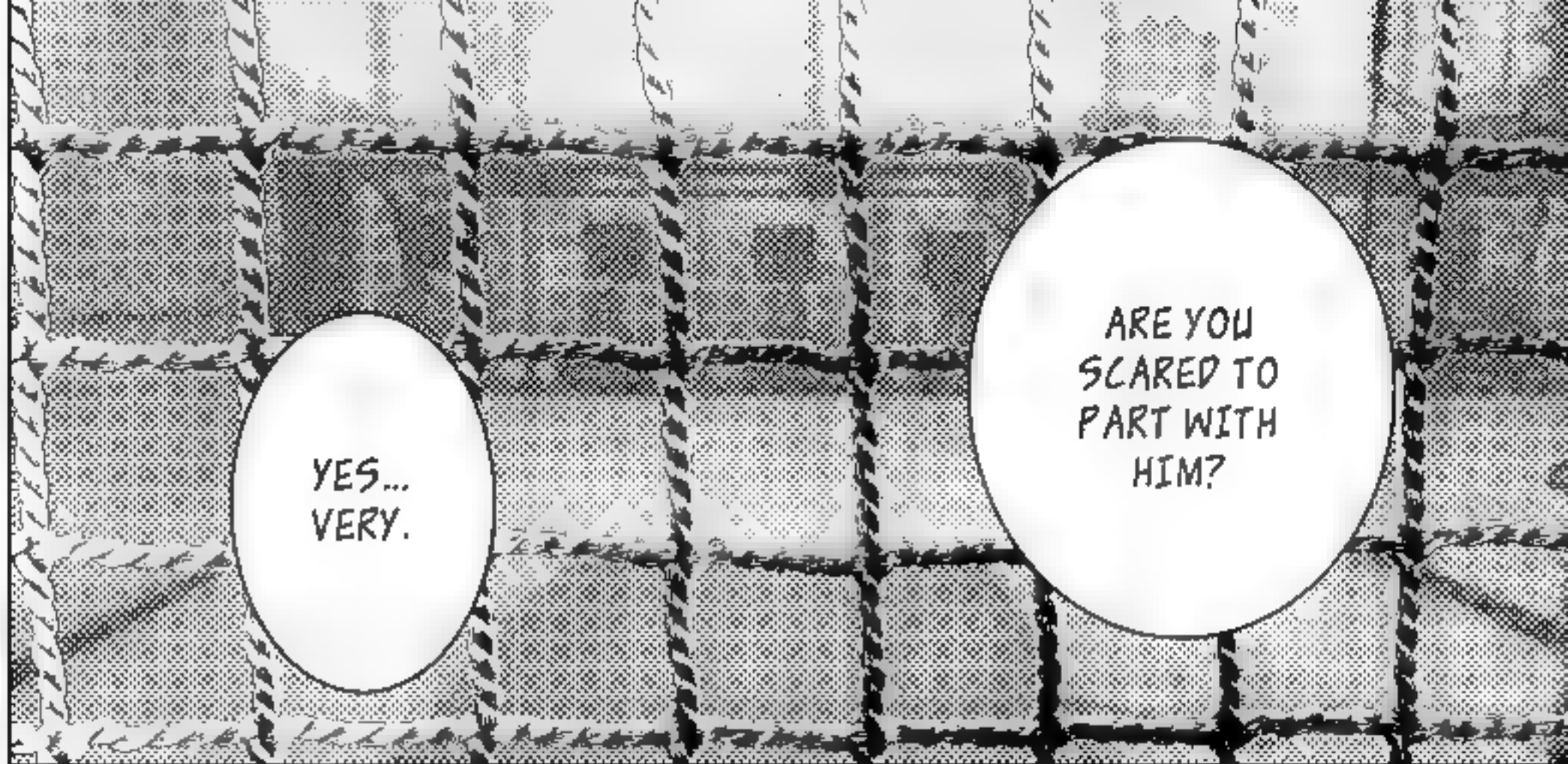
I DON'T KNOW
MYSELF. WHAT
EXACTLY IS
THAT GUY?



YOSHIDA-SAN...
WHAT... WHO IS
HE?



STILL, IT'S A
GOOD THING YOU
TWO MET EACH
OTHER



YES...
VERY.

ARE YOU
SCARED TO
PART WITH
HIM?



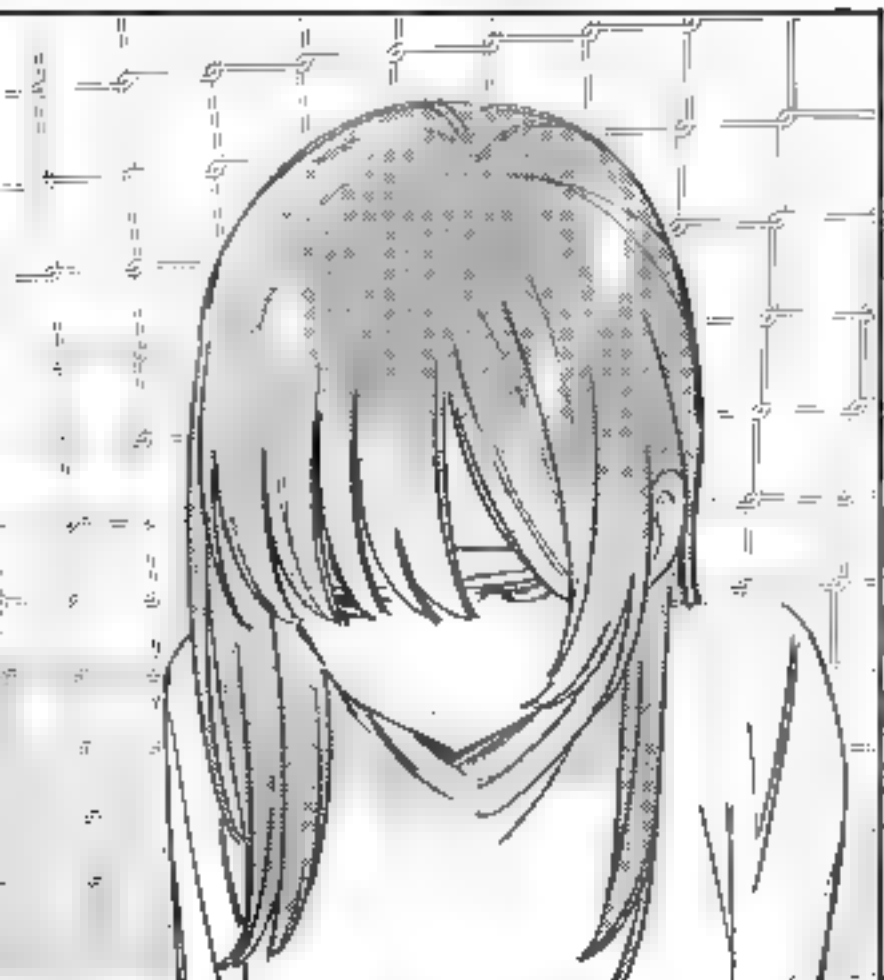
IN THE END
THOUGH... THE
TWO OF YOU
AREN'T FAMILY.



...I KNOW.



I UNDERSTAND.
HE WAS MORE OF
A PARENT THAN
YOUR ACTUAL
PARENTS, AND
NOW YOU HAVE TO
LEAVE HIM.



お
お
お

I DON'T
WANT TO
GO HOME.

I WANT TO BE
HERE... I WANT
TO BE WITH
YOSHIDA-SAN.

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 11...

AFTERWORD

VOLUME 10 OF HIGEHIRO! I'M THRILLED TO HAVE REACHED SUCH AN IMPRESSIVE NUMBER.

WE STARTED OFF IN THIS VOLUME WITH THE CONTINUATION OF SAYU'S PAINFUL PAST. SINCE SOME OF YOU MIGHT HAVE ALREADY KNOWN WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN BECAUSE OF THE NOVELS, I WANTED TO REALLY MAKE IT CLEAR IN THE MANGA ADAPTATION JUST HOW INCREDIBLY AGONIZING THIS HISTORY IS FOR SAYU. TO THAT END, I INCLUDED SOME GUT-WRENCHING ILLUSTRATIONS, AND EVEN AS THE ARTIST I FELT MISERABLE. NEXT UP, SAYU WILL HAVE TO FACE HER OWN PAST, AS WELL AS HER FAMILY, SO PLEASE CONTINUE TO WATCH OVER HER COURAGE AND PROGRESS.

ADACHI IMARU



THANKS AGAIN AS USUAL!

THE EDITORS AT MONTHLY SHONEN ACE, MY MANAGING EDITOR
THE EDITORS AT SNEAKER BUNKO, THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR
SHIMESABA-SAN, BOOTA-SAN
MY ASSISTANTS KURACHI-SAN, RINA MIYABE-SAN
EVERYONE WHO CONTINUES TO READ THE SERIES

AND YOU!



Higchiro (After Being Rejected, I Snaved and Took in a High School Runaway Vol. 10
HIGE O SORU, SOSHITE JOSHIKOSHI O HIRO, Vol.10)

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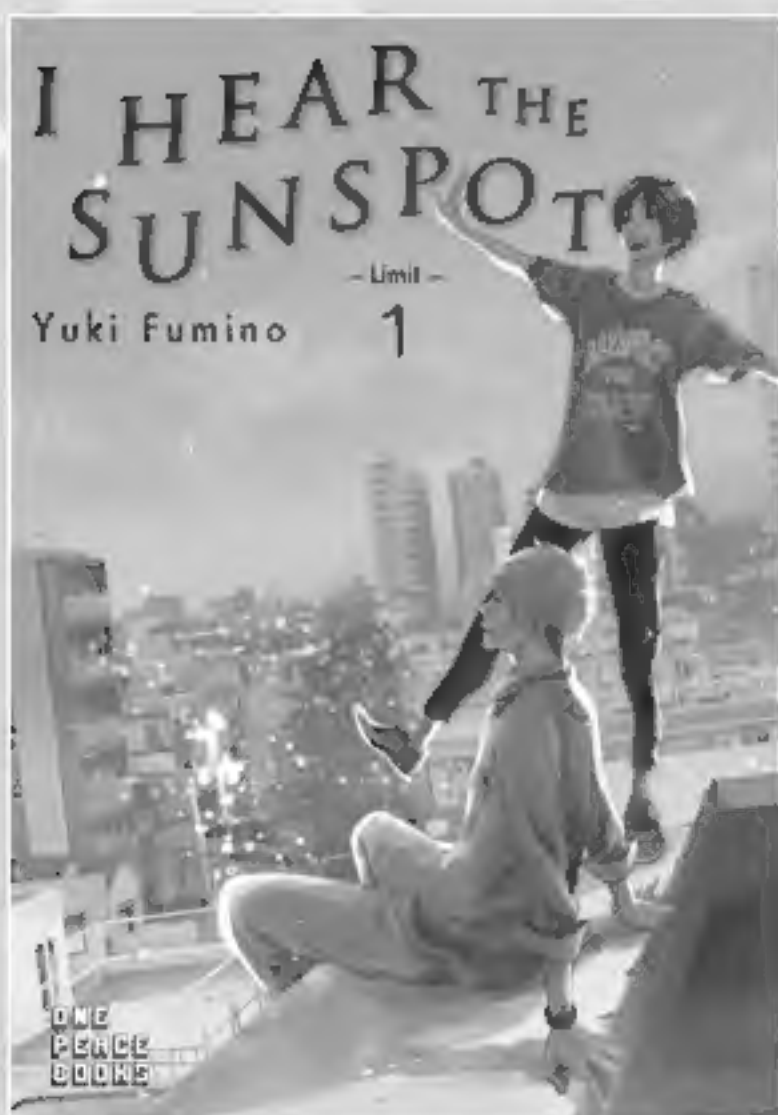
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1

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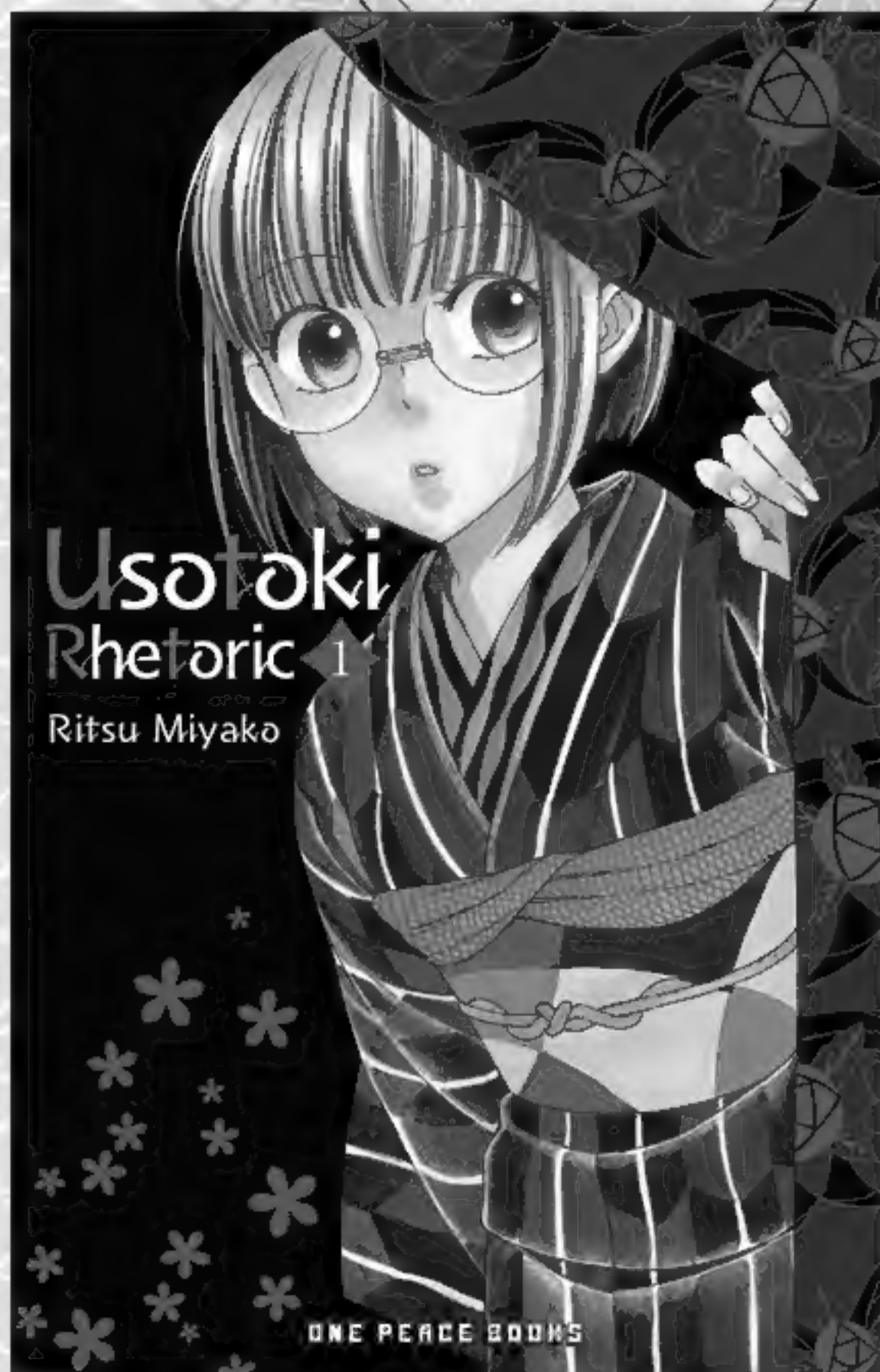
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